POSTHUMOUS WORKS

OF

FREDERIC II.

KING OF PRUSSIA.

VOL. XIII.

CORRESPONDENCE.

LETTERS

BETWEEN

FREDERIC II.

THE PRINCE OF PRUSSIA,

AND

GENERAL FOUQUET.

MISCELLANIES.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH

BY

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ADVERTISEMENT

BY THE

TRANSLATOR.

I HAVE never met with the following Letters, between Prince Auguſtus William and Frederic II. in Engliſh; nor do I believe they have been publiſhed in our language, though, as far as they relate to the character of the monarch, they are exceedingly intereſting. The Introductory Narrative, that precedes them, has the moſt authentic mark of having been written by the Prince himſelf, which is that of a man who ſpeaks feelingly, yet with all the caution, reſtraint, and delicacy, which circumſtances and his ſituation inſpired. The explanatory notes, to the Letters, are likewiſe by the Prince. The whole was publiſhed by himſelf, as a juſtification of his conduct, and as the neceſſary ſafeguard of his honour.

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LETTERS

BETWEEN

FREDERIC II.

AND

AUGUSTUS WILLIAM,

PRINCE ROYAL OF PRUSSIA.

INTRODUCTORY NARRATIVE.

SOME days after the unfortunate battle of Kolin, on the 18th of June, in 1757, his majeſty gave me to underſtand, by letter, he had determined to confide the vanquiſhed army, with an augmentation of ſome regiments, to me.

I was then at the camp of Leutmeritz, with marſhal Keith. The king arrived there on the 27th of June. He ſent for me into his apartment, and converſed with me on all the orders

which he had given for my conduct. He had a map of Bohemia before him. I endeavoured perfectly to remember every thing he ſaid; and, after returning home, I wrote to him that, it being poſſible I might not have perfectly underſtood his orders, I had taken the liberty to draw up a memorandum, on a folded ſheet, and that he might mark in the margin any omiſſion I might have made, or eraſe any paſſage in which I had committed any miſtake.

My letter was very well received, and the king himſelf told me he would make ſome additions.

I hoped the king would ſign this memorial, which might ſerve me as inſtructions.

I had orders to depart, on the 29th of June, with a thouſand waggons, loaded with flour, and eſcorted by two battalions and a hundred huſſars, under the auſpices of God and fortune.

Being with the king, to bid him farewel, and about to depart, he gave me a roll of paper, which I was in haſte to open. How great was my aſtoniſhment to ſee my memorial, without having been ſigned by the king, or without a word under his hand! I departed therefore without inſtructions, and committed myſelf to the diſcretion of the king, who continued free to approve, or to reprehend, my actions.

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The inſtructions which the king had given me by word of mouth, enjoined me—

1. To maintain the poſt of Jung-Buntzlau as long as I poſſibly could.

2. There to load the waggons with bread for ten days, that, ſhould it be neceſſary for me to paſs into Sileſia, the army might have ſufficient proviſion, till it ſhould arrive in the environs of Schweidnitz, from which place it might draw more.

3. To ſend to general Brandeis, to haſten his march, and to conduct the convoy of flour, which was coming from Sileſia to the army, through Zittau.

4. To reconnoitre the roads; that, in caſe I ſhould wiſh to join the king at Leutmeritz, or his majeſty ſhould wiſh to join me, the manœuvre might be eaſily put in execution.

The governors of the fortreſſes in Sileſia, and the chamber of Breſlau, had orders to ſend their reports to me. I was provided with cyphers, that the correſpondence might be carried on with ſafety.

After three days march, I arrived, on the firſt of July, at the camp of Buntzlau, where I found things in a very different ſtate to the account which had been given of them to me, by the king. There was not a buſhel of flour in the

magazine; but, on the contrary, the dearth of proviſions throughout the camp was univerſal: and there was almoſt certain information that the enemy intended to incloſe us, which might eaſily be performed, according to the ſituation of the camp.

I wrote the letter No I. to the king; and on the 3d of July I began my march, toward the camp of Neuſchloſs, which act his majeſty did not diſapprove.

General Winterfeld, in whom the king placed confidence, adviſed me to retreat ſtill another march, and fix my camp at Leipa. I followed his advice; becauſe, by this motion, I approached the magazine of Zittau, and thus greatly facilitated the arrival of the convoy.

I placed garriſons in the caſtles of Gabel and Reichſtadt, to ſecure the road of Zittau.

General Brandeis fortunately arrived with the convoy, and brought us flour ſufficient for ten days.

The king wrote me the letter dated July the 7th, in which he very much diſapproved my having quitted the camp of Neuſchloſs.

We had advice of the enemy, and that prince Charles had joined marſhal Daun, with the army which had been blockaded in Prague; that they had paſſed the Elbe, near Brandeis, and

directed

directed their march along the Iſer; that their general quarters were at Klaſſer, a place in the vicinity of Munchengraetz; that general Morotz, with the huſſars, had been detached to Nimes; and that general Beck had taken poſt near Neuſchloſs, with a corps of regulars, and ſome pandours. It was further ſaid, that the corps of Nadaſti had marched to Leutmeritz, and that general Keil had paſſed into Sileſia, with ten thouſand men.

From theſe reports it was not difficult to divine the intention of the enemy. I wrote to inform the king that, according to the poſition of the foe, it ſeemed to be his purpoſe to cut me off from Zittau; and that he would ſucceed in this more eaſily, ſhould he fix his camp near Nimes; but that, ſhould I immediately cauſe the army to occupy the poſt of Gabel, his deſign on Zittau might be fruſtrated, I not then having more than one march to arrive at the place. The anſwer which the king returned, on the third, will be ſeen.

I a ſecond time wrote on the 2d; the anſwer to which, dated the 4th, did not arrive till ſome days afterward.

Perceiving the king abſolutely determined that I ſhould not quit the camp of Leipa, notwithſtanding the neceſſity there was to cover the

magazine of Zittau I formed the plan of detaching a corps of twelve battalions, and ſome ſquadrons, to occupy the camp of Gabel; and this detachment was to have departed on the 13th.

On the night of the 12th, I received the fatal letter from the king, dated the 10th, in which he commanded me to march a conſiderable corps toward Tetſchen, becauſe he believed the enemy meant to attack that place. This order was a thunder-ſtroke to me, for I foreſaw the misfortune that would follow. The detachment enfeebled the army ſo much, that, on the approach of the enemy, I could not ſpare a ſingle regiment, without expoſing myſelf to danger.

On the 14th, it was requiſite to ſend our waggons to Zittau, to obtain flour for ten days.—General Putkammer had orders to eſcort them, with two battalions. Winterfeld, to whom I had given the command of the corps that was to ſuccour Tetſchen, had arrived at Kamnitz. He ſent me word that every thing was quiet in thoſe quarters; and that he had ſpoken to ſome men who came from Tetſchen, and who affirmed they had not ſeen a ſingle man of the enemy. Therefore the king had been wrongly informed.

Morotz, who, as I have juſt ſaid, held the poſt of Nimes, rendered the communication with

Gabel

Gabel very difficult. I could obtain no intelligence. A meſſenger muſt neceſſarily have an eſçort of thirty huſſars, and twelve grenadiers. There were two defiles to paſs; news was often brought me by people diſguiſed, who were obliged to make great circuits.

On the 14th, I received ſome advice from Gabel. In the morning, between five and ſix, I heard a heavy cannonading on the ſide of Reichſtadt, by which our convoy was to paſs, and ſoon after general Putkammer ſent me word that he was oppoſed by a corps of regular troops.

I immediately ordered three battalions to arms, and a regiment of dragoons to mount, and ſent theſe forces under the command of general Leſtwitz, bidding him endeavour to relieve the convoy, and to follow it till he ſhould ſee that its van had attained the laſt defile of Gabel.

I ſent to general Winterfeld, enjoining him to march his detachment to the army, without delay.

The enemy no ſooner perceived the approach of general Leſtwitz than he retreated, and appeared to deſiſt from his attempt on the convoy. General Leſtwitz returned to the camp in the afternoon, and reported that the enemy had drawn in his horns, and that the convoy continued its march unmoleſted.

Between five and ſix, we heard a grand diſcharge of artillery and ſmall arms. I was not a little embarraſſed, not doubting but that the convoy was attacked near Gabel; and ſoon after I ſaw the five ſquadrons of huſſars, which I had detached to Gabel, coming full trot, by private paths and circuitous ways, who told me that they could not paſs the high road, becauſe the enemy held the defiles. The major, who commanded theſe huſſars, reported that general Putkammer, being arrived at Gabel, had met a corps of regulars, that had aſſaulted him by a cannonading; that he had found much difficulty in conducting the two battalions and a part of the waggons to Gabel; that another corps at the ſame time had attacked the town, and that the whole army of marſhal Daun, in conjunction with that of prince Charles, was encamped near Nimes. This major was much aſtoniſhed to hear that the great number of couriers, whom he had ſent to give me this information, had none of them arrived.

I aſſembled the beſt informed generals, to know their opinions on the manner in which it was neceſſary to act; for it was an affair of conſequence.

Winterfeld excuſed his attendance, by alleging his wounds and fatigues, ſaying that there would

would be time enough to deliberate on the morrow.

The reſolutions that remained for us to take were—

1. To march with the whole army to Gabel, to ſupport that place; which appeared morally impoſſible, becauſe, during the march, our flank muſt have been preſented to the enemy, we muſt have paſſed through defiles, and have attacked twenty thouſand men with twenty-five thouſand *.

2. To join the king at Leutmeritz; in which caſe we ſhould abandon Zittau, with the magazine and the garriſon.

3. To march to Zittau through Kamnitz and Rumburg; which laſt reſolution ſeemed to be the only one that could ſave the army, and perhaps Zittau itſelf.

After having well weighed the affair, and conſulted thoſe who knew the country, I made every diſpoſition for the march. The vanguard was committed to general Schmettau, with orders to gain the town of Zittau as ſoon as poſſible, and to occupy the Eckerſberg, which is an important poſt. The baggage, eſcorted by ſeveral battalions, was to follow the van-

* There is ſurely ſome miſtake in numbers, here; the combined armies of marſhal Daun and prince Charles muſt have greatly exceeded twenty thouſand. T.

guard.

guard. General Winterfeld was to follow the baggage, and form the van-guard of the remainder of the army, with ſome battalions. We could only march in one column, becauſe the roads were impracticable.

Being uncertain, relative to the fate of Gabel, I followed the advice of general Winterfeld, and ſent general Rebentiſch thither, with three battalions, that he might endeavour to gain certain intelligence. Scarcely had this general arrived among the hills, half a mile diſtant from the camp, before he ſaw a corps of the enemy, marching full ſpeed to cut him off. I was obliged immediately to ſend general Manteuffel, with three additional battalions, toward which general Rebentiſch retired, and which covered his retreat. He brought me one of the townſmen of Gabel, who related that the garriſon, after a briſk defence, wanting powder, had been obliged to capitulate. Four battalions attacked by an army can, of courſe, capitulate no otherwiſe than by ſurrendering themſelves priſoners.

The van-guard, under the command of general Schmettau, began its march on the 15th in the evening. It would have marched ſooner, could bread have ſooner been baked; which circumſtance occaſioned the delay.

I intended to have followed, with the army,

at day-break; but I loſt all hope of this, when on the 17th, at five in the morning, I ſaw the laſt baggage waggons were ſtill in the camp. To facilitate the march in queſtion, and aſſume a good ſituation, for I had a great deal of ground to cover, I made a motion with my right wing, and ſtationed my camp on the heights of Oberlibich, where I had a defile in front.

On the 18th the army marched, in one column, to Kamnitz. The baggage, which filed off through Kreywitz, was attacked near Haſſel. The fears and the diſorder of the camp followers, who always ſuppoſe the danger greater than it really is, occaſioned ſeveral waggons to ſtop each other, and to break down. Many of the pontons were overthrown; the enemy pillaged much of the baggage, and took a good number of horſes. The pandours, who had taken poſt behind an abatis haſtily thrown up, fired on our men, while others attacked the baggage. Our free company and chaſſeurs marched round the abatis, attacked the pandours, and obliged them to retire.

As the baggage entirely ſtopped up the road, we were obliged to deſtroy the waggons, and leave all of them there, except ſuch as we could not do without. General Winterfeld cauſed the van-

van-guard to be followed by workmen to break down the abatis, and to repair the roads. Moſt of the pontons, not well provided with horſes, were broken to pieces.

Two reaſons induced us to haſten our march:

1. We had only bread enough for ten days.

2. Every effort muſt be made, to be before the enemy at Zittau.

On the 19th, at four in the afternoon, general Winterfeld ſent to inform me that the roads were cleared. The army began its march, and the van-guard haſtened to gain the heights of Kreywitz.

Scarcely had the army decamped before general Winterfeld ſent to let me know that he ſaw a corps, provided with cannon and cavalry, about ſix thouſand ſtrong, coming from the ſide of Zittau; that he imagined this corps meant to gain Kreywitz, but that he would uſe every effort to prevent ſuch an attempt.

To reinforce general Winterfeld, I ordered thirteen battalions and two regiments of horſe to march, by another road, which was ſhorter than that taken by the army.

This road was only a kind of wide path, that led over rocks. The battalions marched without artillery, or guard regiments.

We joined general Winterfeld in time.

The head of the army having paſſed the village of Haſſel, we heard a firing of muſketry, and ſome diſcharges of artillery. This proceeded from a corps of pandours, that had concealed themſelves in the foreſt of Kaltenberg, and who fired when the laſt battalion of the van-guard, which was that of Brunſwick, was about to enter the defile, to cover the march of the regiment of Wurtenberg dragoons. The battalion drew up, and charged the pandours; the dragoons took poſt on a height near the battalion; the prince of Wurtenberg had a horſe killed under him, but received no injury himſelf.

As ſoon as the army arrived, I ſent general Leſtwitz, with three battalions, to ſupport that of Brunſwick, and to fruſtrate the pillage of the pandours. Scarcely had theſe battalions entered the foreſt, before, after a charge that continued a quarter of an hour, every thing became quiet. Night came on, and the defile we had to paſs extended a quarter of a mile. I took care not to make this march during night; becauſe, on the leaſt noiſe, the diſorder would have been inevitable; add to which, all the roads were blocked up, by waggons, ſo that none of the artillery could paſs.

I took the reſolution to poſt the regiments on

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the Kaltenberg, as well as it was poſſible. The cavalry encamped, ſurrounded by the infantry, which I had placed round the mountain. The foreſt and all the avenues were guarded by piquets, and advanced poſts; no tents were erected, becauſe the ground was too narrow. Our men were very ill at their eaſe; they had been haraſſed on their march, had neither bread nor water, and lay in the open field; which was one of the cauſes of the great deſertion.

One of the horſe chaſſeurs of the king came to requeſt I would ſend ſome huſſars with him, ſaying he hoped to find a road, which led round the mountain, that was held by the dragoons of Wurtenberg. He had judged rightly, and brought me word that, on the other ſide of the mountain, there was ground ſpacious enough to encamp a regiment in front, and three or four regiments in the rear. This diſcovery gave me much pleaſure, becauſe it freed me from ſome regiments, we being too much confined.

The ſame chaſſeur came a ſecond time, to aſk an eſcort of huſſars, and found a road that led to Kreywitz. This road was ſo little beaten that I imagined it was long ſince it had been paſſed by any perſon; but the diſcovery made me determine to march in two columns.

General Leſtwitz ſent to tell me that he had happily

happily joined general Winterfeld. We were certain that the pandours had quitted the defile that they held the day before, and diſpoſitions were made that a part of the army might take the road of the van-guard, and that the other column might paſs by that which the chaſſeur had diſcovered. An additional battalion was ſent to examine the foreſt, and workmen were ordered to carry off the waggons, that had been broken down.

In fine, on the 20th, at four o'clock in the morning, the whole army was on its march, and the two columns ſafely arrived without a blow near Kreywitz, where the van-guard already was encamped. Not having any bread for the day, we gave two gros to each man.

In the afternoon, general Winterfeld decamped, with the van-guard that had taken reſt, and I gave him orders to proceed as far as he could, without fatiguing his men; the army followed by brigades, in order that one regiment might take as much reſt as another. We paſſed Kreywitz, and were obliged to aſcend a hill, on which we every where diſcovered broken waggons.

General Winterfeld advanced the ſame day to Rumburg, and I cauſed the army to encamp near the village of Schoenlinde. The pandours had

had taken poſt in a wood, and ſkirmiſhed all night long with our chaſſeurs, and free company, without doing them any injury.

A battalion of grenadiers, formed of Saxons, that covered the baggage, the ſame day afforded a mark of its fidelity. It was ſent to keep the wood, and the whole battalion, two hundred men excepted, laid down their arms, and paſſed over to the enemy.

On the morning of the 12th, I was informed by general Winterfeld that the army might ſhorten the road, ſhould we leave Rumburg on the left, and march immediately to the heights of Unterhennerſdorf, where he would wait with the van-guard for our arrival.

On the ſame day I learned, from general Schmettau, that he had arrived on the 19th at Zittau, where he had found a corps of fifteen thouſand men, under the command of the prince of Arenberg, who were there before him. He ſaw the infantry poſted on the Eckerſberg, by which he was cannonaded without effect; and about thirty ſquadrons made a ſhew of attacking him in flank and rear. The general, not finding any good poſt which he could aſſume, cauſed all his troops to enter the town, and, being in want of forage, he ſent away the cavalry, on the 20th, with orders to join general Winterfeld.

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The van-guard proceeded as far as Spitzkanherſdorf, and the army encamped on the heights of Unterhennerſdorf, by the ſide of a pond, that the men might not want water.

General Schmettau ſent intelligence that the greateſt part of the enemy's army had arrived on the 12th; that the Auſtrian camp extended from Grothau to Giſmanſdorf, having Neiſs in front; and that prince Charles had ſummoned the town, and had received the uſual anſwer.

The army marched on the 22d at day-break, and the little baggage that remained had orders to follow. Being arrived on the height of Kalberbuch, we diſcovered the enemy's camp beyond the Neiſſe, and two conſiderable corps, one of which was poſted on this ſide the Neiſſe, and the other on this ſide of the Eckerſberg. Soon after a corps of German cavalry approached, file by file, from the plain, to obſerve our motions.

The head of the van-guard advanced as far as Herbſdorf, where the enemy had placed infantry, with artillery, in the burial-ground. For this reaſon, we thought proper to wheel to the left, and march round the village, which is very long; accordingly ſo we did. The enemy's cavalry, that had obſerved us, took poſt on a

height at the end of the village of Herbſdorf, on the right.

When we had made the tour of the village, and had recovered the right, at the end of the ſaid village, the head of the column was ordered to halt, and the generals were aſſembled, to deliberate on the means of marching, to procure bread from Zittau.

It was the opinion of general Winterfeld that the army ſhould march in two columns, by the ſide of Herbſdorf, which we muſt leave on our left, and approach Zittau with the right wing of the army; affirming that we might then obtain bread without danger.

The generals, who knew the ground, objected that, ſhould we march with the whole army in the plain, and ſhould the enemy be concealed in the ravines, at the foot of Eckerſberg, we ſhould be obliged to face about, as ſoon as they ſhould leave their ambuſcade, in which caſe our right wing would be moleſted by the cavalry, that had obſerved our march, and behind which we could not ſay whether there might not be likewiſe infantry concealed, and our left would be entirely expoſed to the artillery of Eckerſberg; ſhould the enemy ſtill further detach a corps, to occupy the heights that we held, the whole

whole army would be ſo encloſed that it would find it very difficult to extricate itſelf.

While we were deliberating, the enemy relieved us from our uncertainty, by cauſing many troops to file off behind Sieferſdorf, which troops approached the heights that ſupported the Auſtrian left wing. This motion determined the poſition it was neceſſary we ſhould take. Our left remained on the heights where we were, having Oderwitz in the rear; a battalion occupied an old redoubt, and the right wing proceeded along the village of Herbſdorf, which the enemy had abandoned.

General Winterfeld marched with ſome battalions toward Zittau, from which place general Schmettau made a ſally, with two battalions, to meet him, and bring ſufficient bread for the army, for a day and a half. The enemy cannonaded general Winterfeld, without doing him any harm.

When all the poſts were occupied, the beſt meaſures had been taken, and the ground had been profited by, not being more than a cannon ſhot diſtant from the foe, the men were ordered not to erect their tents, nor to undreſs themſelves. The corps of cavalry, which the enemy had poſted on the heights of our right wing, retired at the approach of general Winterfeld.

Theſe heights were occupied by our men, and we there ſupported our right wing.

The enemy filed off troops all the day, over the little bridge of Schönau. In the evening, almoſt the whole Auſtrian army was on this ſide of the river, fronting us. Several deſerters affirmed that orders had been given not to erect the tents. We imagined we ſhould be attacked on the morrow, as was natural to be ſuppoſed, from the ſuperiority of the enemy in numbers.

The batteries of the enemy being ready, the town of Zittau was hotly bombarded, on the 22d, and was all on fire about noon. The garriſon was not fired upon.

On the morning of the 23d, when every thing was calm, I ordered the camp to be traced, and tents to be erected. The enemy did the ſame.

General Rebentiſch was commanded to march to Zittau, with ſome battalions, and to conduct the army waggons thither, that they might be loaded with bread and flour. The exceſs of heat, and the half-burnt houſes, which fell in ruins on each other, prevented the execution of this order.

About one o'clock, the governor ſent to inform me that the heat, occaſioned by the conflagration, rendered it impoſſible for him longer

to

to keep the place, and that he waited new orders.

I returned for anſwer he muſt maintain his poſt as long as he poſſibly could, and that he muſt then quit the town, with the garriſon, and march to join the army. This was executed in the evening. The ſix battalions that compoſed the garriſon fortunately arrived, without having loſt a ſingle man, by any attempts of the enemy, but many by deſertion. A battalion of grenadiers, formed from the Saxon regiments, beat the chamade, forced the Frauenthor, and fled toward the enemy, except about a hundred men, who alſo arrived at the army.

Colonel Diezelſky, who was the commander, was cut off from his men, by a houſe that had been thrown down; and he and the diviſion, which guarded the colours, were taken priſoners; as was alſo the elder major Kleiſt, of the regiment of the margrave Henry, with the colours.

The whole town of Zittau was laid in aſhes, while we were unable to afford it any ſuccour; it was bombarded by the enemy on the other ſide, to which we could not march, without making the army file off. Unable to ſave the flour, and having only bread for half a day, nothing remained for us but to decamp as faſt as poſſible.

The following diſpoſition was made:

On the 24th, at ſix in the evening, general Schultz marched, with ſome battalions, ſome huſſars, and the army baggage. The ten battalions and the thirty ſquadrons that compoſed the van-guard, under the command of general Winterfeld, were to take arms at ten o'clock.

The army was to march, in one column, at midnight.

The rear-guard, twelve battalions and twenty ſquadrons ſtrong, under the command of generals Leſtwitz and Ziethen, was to occupy the heights, and cover the march of the army.

The army was to march to the left, leaving a foreſt, named Wood-royal, on the right, and to paſs, at the diſtance of a quarter of a mile, round the right wing of the enemy, to attain the high road that leads through Rupperſdorf, Herrnhut, Strahwald, and Lœbau.

This diſpoſition was happily executed on the 24th and 25th; except that, in the dark, ſome regiments of the van-guard croſſed each other, and loſt the road of the rendezvous; whence it happened that the army, which was to have departed at midnight, did not march before morning.

We all imagined our rear-guard would be furiouſly attacked. It may be ſaid we were at the

the diſcretion of the enemy, who might have made a diſpoſition that would have much retarded us, and againſt which his ſuperiority of ſtrength muſt undoubtedly have interdicted ſelf-defence. But this alarm was vain; the enemy did not diſturb us, and we made our march without any ill accident. Our rear-guard was followed by only ſome five hundred huſſars, who haraſſed our free company.

The army arrived in the camp of Lœbau, an hour after midnight, where general Schultz already was, with the baggage, without having loſt a ſingle waggon.

On the 26th the camp halted, and bread arrived from Budiſſin.

On the 27th we marched to Budiſſin. General Winterfeld encamped, with the van-guard, on the heights of Hochkirchen, which poſt ſecured a communication with the town of Lœbau, in caſe the king ſhould have an intention to aſſume this camp.

On the 28th, general Winterfeld decamped, at the approach of a corps of the enemy, and came to join the army near Budiſſin. I learned that the king had arrived there, with ſixteen battalions and twenty-eight ſquadrons.

On the 29th he ſent his aid du camp, Oppe, with orders that he ſhould be ſhewn the ſituation

of the camp, of which he was to make his report to the king, who intended to regulate his camp by ours.

At ten, the king arrived on the right wing of our camp, accompanied by the guard du corps, the gens d'armes, and ſome fourriers, whom he ordered to mark out the camp for the regiments he brought. I mounted my horſe, to go and meet his majeſty, accompanied by the duke of Bevern, the prince of Wurtemberg, and the principal generals.

The king no ſooner ſaw us than he turned his horſe, and remained near a quarter of an hour in that poſture. But he was obliged to face about, to give place to the fourriers. I approached to pay him my reſpects, but he did not ſpeak a word, nor deign to look at me, and ſcarcely moved his hat. The duke of Bevern and the other generals were no better received.

He ſoon after called for general Goltz, and ſaid to him—"Tell my brother and all his ge-"nerals that, did I act as I ought, I ſhould cut "off their heads."

This was no agreeable compliment. Some generals were grieved, others offended, and others again turned it to ridicule.

I was informed the king had forbidden the regiments he brought with him all intercourſe with

with thoſe under my command, pretending that my officers and my ſoldiers had loſt their courage, and deſire of fame. The king drove general Schultz, whom I had ſent to know the watch-word for my army, from his preſence; and, when I went to perſonally deliver him the liſts, and the army reports, he haſtily took them from my hand, and turned his back on me.

General Schmettau was commanded to withdraw from the ſight of the king, and to be gone to Dreſden by the firſt opportunity.

After treatment ſo diſgraceful, I took the reſolution to quit the camp, and go to Budiſſin. On the morrow, I wrote the following letter to the king:

MY DEAR BROTHER,

THE letters you have written to me, and the reception I yeſterday met with, ſufficiently inform me that, in your opinion, I have loſt my honour and reputation. At this I am grieved, but not dejected, not having the leaſt reproach to make myſelf. I am perfectly convinced that I have not acted from caprice, and that I have not followed the advice of people who were incapable of adviſing well; but that I have done what I thought beſt for the army. Your generals

rals will all do me the juſtice to acknowledge this.

I hold it uſeleſs to entreat you would cauſe my conduct to be examined; that would be doing me a favour, which I therefore do not expect.

My health has been injured by fatigue, but much more by chagrin, and to recover it I have left the field, and gone to live in the town.

I have requeſted the duke of Bevern to make you the army reports, and he can render you an account of all things.

Be aſſured, my dear brother, that, notwithſtanding I am overwhelmed with misfortunes which I have not merited, my attachment for the ſtate will never ceaſe; and, as a faithful member of this ſtate, my joy will be complete, whenever I ſhall hear of any good fortune, by which your enterpriſes may be attended.

I have the honour to be, &c.

The king wrote me the following anſwer, with his own hand.

MY DEAR BROTHER,

YOUR ill conduct has very much injured my affairs. It is not the enemy, but your ill-concerted meaſures, that have done me wrong. My generals cannot ſtand excuſed, ſince they have

have either given you ill council, or have ſuffered you to take improper ſteps. Your ears are accuſtomed only to liſten to the diſcourſe of paraſites; but Daun has not flattered you, and you ſee the conſequences.

In this diſtreſſed ſituation, nothing remains for me but to proceed to extremities. I muſt fight; and, if we do not know the road to conqueſt, we will at leaſt all find the road to death.

I do not complain of your heart, but much of your incapacity, and your want of judgment in chooſing the beſt means. Whoever has but a few days to live has no motive for diſſimulation. I wiſh you better fortune than I have had, and that the ills and miſadventures which you have met with may teach you to treat important affairs with greater care, reaſon, and fortitude. The majority of the misfortunes which I foreſee originate wholly in you, but their conſequences will alight rather on you, and your children, than on me.

Be perſuaded, however, I have always loved you, and that in theſe ſentiments I ſhall die.

This letter I thought it beſt not to anſwer. Having been informed that the king would march in the evening to Weiſſenberg, with eighteen battalions and twenty-eight ſquadrons,

I ſent

I ſent lieutenant-colonel Lentulus to aſk his permiſſion that I might depart for Dreſden, with the firſt eſcort. The king anſwered the thing depended entirely on myſelf, and that an eſcort would go that very evening.

All the generals who had been under my command came to take leave of me, and all approved my determination. General Winterfeld having been to the king, had a converſation with him of two hours, and vaunted that the king had excepted him from the number of generals with whom he was diſſatisfied. The duke of Bevern, to whom the king paid no attention, was much vexed. Winterfeld had done nothing more, nor had he given any better advice, than the reſt; for which reaſon, this diſtinction occaſioned much ſuſpicion, and ſtill more when it was known that he had maintained a ſecret correſpondence with the king.

In the evening, at five o'clock, I departed with two battalions of Hautſcharmoi and four hundred waggons. We lay in a village, and on the 13th, at noon, I arrived at Dreſden.

I immediately wrote to the miniſtry, and to all the governors of the fortreſſes of Sileſia, to ſhew them how impoſſible it was I ſhould ſend them any ſuccour. To rid himſelf of their complaints, the king had ordered them all to addreſs

addreſs me, ſignifying that I was authoriſed to ſend them the neceſſary ſuccour, and to ſecure the province from the pillage of the light troops, though this was at the very time that he himſelf knew I was ſurrounded by the whole Auſtrian army, and that it was with great difficulty I could extricate myſelf.

LET.

LETTERS

BETWEEN

FREDERIC II.

AND

AUGUSTUS WILLIAM,

PRINCE ROYAL OF PRUSSIA.

LETTER I.

From the Prince of Pruſſia.

The camp of Buntzlau,

MY DEAR BROTHER, July 1, 1757.

I ARRIVED this afternoon in the camp, with all the waggons; the enemy's huſſars have made their attacks, but we have not ſuffered the leaſt loſs.

It is my duty to ſpeak freely to you on our preſent ſituation. You may reſt aſſured I have conſulted the generals before I wrote this letter. There is neither any flour nor a loaf of bread, for the army, at Buntzlau. Our camp is as well

fixed as it can be, becauſe it is our purpoſe to ſupport the town. The camp is more than ſtrong enough in front, but, ſhould the enemy's army paſs the Elbe near Brandeis, as it apparently will from the intelligence we have received, we ſhall be cut off from Leutmeritz.

We are at preſent ſo entirely ſurrounded by the enemy's light troops that there are neither liquors nor proviſions in the camp. The purpoſe of the enemy ſeems to be to ſtarve us, for it will be difficult to leave the camp in ſight of the Auſtrian army. We likewiſe want water; for the right wing, that it may not be cut off by three defiles, muſt be ſtationed as it now is, which removes it from the Iſer.

The regiments have ſent off their wounded to Zittau. Moſt of the regiments have not their baggage waggons with them, I therefore think it will be difficult to ſend as many waggons as will be neceſſary to be loaded with bread half as far as Leutmeritz.

While, brother, I propoſe that which I think is neceſſary to be done in favour, and for the ſafety, of the army, I declare to you this advice is not ſingly mine, but that of the generals who have more experience than I have; and it is that if we were, in all haſte, to fix our camp at Neuſchloſs, we might conveniently join you from this

place as before. We ſhall thus cover Luſatia; and, according as circumſtances ſhall require, can more eaſily paſs into Sileſia. The convoy of general Brandeis may join us without difficulty. Proviſions will be more plentiful in the camp, and the ſoldier better ſatisfied, which is a principal thing in our preſent ſituation. Such is our true ſtate.

We have ſeen a conſiderable corps of light troops that encamp near Stenitz, not far from our camp. From theſe we are ſeparated by a hollow-way. The deſerters, who are juſt come in, affirm that prince Charles will to-day paſs the Elbe with his army to attack us, or will come and encamp near us. Should this news be true, and, if I muſt remain in a camp which I am not certain I can maintain with honour, ſhould I be attacked, I will acquit myſelf of my duty to you, to the army, and to the ſtate. For this reaſon I ſay that, thus ſituated, I ſhall march without waiting your orders; but, in caſe the enemy do not paſs the Elbe, I will wait an anſwer, to which, as I ought, I ſhall ſubmit. You may reſt perſuaded that all which I have the honour to write to you is conformable to truth.

I am with the moſt profound reſpect, &c.

LETTER II.

From the Prince of Pruſſia.

MY DEAR BROTHER, The camp of Buntzlau, July 2, 1757.

YOU muſt have read, in my laſt letter, the intelligence which was brought us, by one of the enemy's huſſars, and a woman of Brandeis, all which appears to me conformable to truth. We take every poſſible precaution to obtain news of the enemy: one of our trumpets, returned from the army of Daun, has brought a letter dated at the camp of Liſſa; it is hence probable the army of prince Charles is on this, and that of marſhal Daun on the other, ſide of the Iſer. The whole corps of Nadaſti is encamped near Stranow and Sobinka, which camp is ſeparated from ours by a tolerably large hollow-way.

General Winterfeld has undertaken to march to Lobes, with four battalions, in order to obtain more certain information of the enemy. Should no alteration happen in affairs, prince Maurice will to-morrow march with his regiment, the battalion of Finck grenadiers, the regiments of Brunſwick, and of Stechau, and with

with a hundred huſſars, which according to your orders are to go for bread to Pleiſwedel.

We are in total want of proviſions, and dearth induces the ſoldier to reaſon and examine.

I have nothing further to add, I refer to what I had the honour to write yeſterday, and am, &c.

LETTER III.

From the Prince of Pruſſia.

MY DEAR BROTHER, The camp of Buntzlau, the evening of July 2, 1757.

PRINCE Maurice will give you an exact account of our ſituation, and how impoſſible it is for us to maintain the camp of Buntzlau. The want of water, forage, and proviſions, is the principal cauſe; add to this the information, which comes from all parts, that prince Charles has paſſed the Elbe near Brandeis, and that Daun is encamped at Liſſa, and the corps of Nadaſti at Stranow, by which they may cut off our proviſions, and communications with Leutmeritz.

I therefore ſee myſelf conſtrained to aſſume a camp more ſecure, and better ſituated, than this. I mean the camp of Neuſchloſs.

I am in momentary expectation of the report of general Winterfeld, who is gone with ſome

battalions to reconnoitre the enemy. When I have received it, I ſhall make every diſpoſition for marching. Not having received any letters from Leutmeritz, for ſome days, I fear leſt the chaſſeurs ſhould have been taken.

You may reſt aſſured, brother, that nothing ſhall be neglected of what is conformable to your will, and proper for the army.

I am, &c.

LETTER IV.

From the King.

In Anſwer to the laſt Letter.

Leutmeritz, July 3, 1757.

A HUSSAR, in diſguiſe, brought me a ſmall roll of paper, on which I found theſe three words :

Marched to Hirſchberg.

LET-

LETTER V.

From the Prince of Pruſſia.

MY DEAR BROTHER, The camp of Neuſchloſs, July 4, 1757.

THE huſſar is fortunately arrived, with the note.

I had pitched my camp near Hirſchberg, becauſe I could not reach Neuſchloſs. The quantity of baggage has much retarded the march. We have not however loſt a waggon, nor is a man miſſing, from the rear-guard, one excepted of the battalion of Le Noble.

I have aſſumed this camp, which is but a ſhort mile from Hirſchberg, becauſe in my preſent ſituation it is very convenient for the army, which may here take reſt, and we ſhall not be in immediate want of proviſions. I will ſend an engineer to-morrow to Leipa, to reconnoitre the town, and the ſtrength of the garriſon ſhall be conformable to his report. After having placed a garriſon in that town we ſhall be in leſs want of proviſions, and ſhall gain ſo much the more ground for forage.

I have this day ſent to haſten the march of general Brandeis: general Rebentiſch may rein-

force his eſcort at Zittau, from which place he was detached by prince Maurice.

The battalion of Plok remains at Goerlitz, with the wounded, and general Rebentiſch will join general Brandeis with the battalions of Kalkreuter, and five ſquadrons of Werner. The colonel, who is at Zittau, retains a battalion of pioneers and the Kurſel regiment to cover the magazine.

The whole vicinity is occupied by ſmall parties of huſſars, and pandours; we do not receive the leaſt intelligence of the army of Daun, except that a trumpet has brought us another letter, dated at Liſſa.

I ſhall cauſe the roads, that lead from this place to Leutmeritz, Zittau, and through Aicha, to Hirſchberg in Sileſia, to be reconnoitred, that we may be ready for whatever ſhall happen.

Prince Maurice has written to inform me that general Bulow is arrived with the bread at Pleiſwedel, and that general Meinecke will bring it us to-day.

The ravages and diſorders which the women, and attendants on the camp, commit, are ſo numerous that it will be very neceſſary to make an example, and I requeſt you will direct me how to act in this.

I am, &c.

LETTER VI.

From the King.

MY DEAR BROTHER, Leutmeritz, July 3, 1757.

YOU muſt not retreat further into Sileſia. You, therefore, have no other road but that of Luſatia. Every part muſt be foraged, and all ruined which is not eaten up, that the enemy may find a difficulty of ſubſiſtence.

As ſoon as you have eſtabliſhed the camp at Hirſchberg, there will no longer be any trouble in maintaining a communication with Leutmeritz. We muſt do our utmoſt to maintain our ground, till the 15th of Auguſt; and, as Zittau is a poſt of ſmall importance, you may pitch your camp either at Reichenberg, Grottau, or at Gabel.

Should the enemy think proper to turn toward Luſatia, you muſt fix your camp with much circumſpection. Suffer him to paſs, then follow him, and cut off his proviſions, by which he will be obliged to come and attack you, on ground which you may chuſe, after conſulting the duke of Bevern and ſeveral other officers, who are acquainted with thoſe environs. Or ſhould he march, in full force, to Landſhut, you muſt proceed to Greiffenberg to cut off his

proviſions. Winterfeld and major Embers, eſpecially, who are acquainted with thoſe parts, can regulate your march and chooſe your camp. Be not haſty to determine from uncertain information, nor take any reſolutions before you are well aſſured what are the views of the enemy. Spread a report, through the army, that you are projecting a great enterprize, and that affairs will ſoon aſſume a very different face.

I am, &c.

LETTER VII.

From the King.

In Anſwer to No. V. of the Prince of Pruſſia.

MY DEAR BROTHER, Leutmeritz, July 5, 1757.

I AM very well ſatisfied with the camp which you have aſſumed at Neuſchloſs, and which you have very properly choſen, under preſent circumſtances. Being informed that the enemy has views on Tetſchen, you muſt be on your guard, and take care that no corps of the enemy ſhall ſtation itſelf between your camp and the Elbe. For, ſuppoſing any one ſhould come and encamp in thoſe parts, you muſt immediately

diately detach a corps toward Budiſſin, which will oblige the enemy to deſiſt from his intention.

Should the whole force of the enemy incline to Leutmeritz, by which we ſhould be obliged to join you, I have choſen a very ſtrong camp, between Ploſchkowitz and Zaorzan; but this junction ought not to be made if it can poſſibly be avoided.

I have received news that the army of prince Charles is marched to Wittendorf, but this I do not believe.

Should you have any thing to communicate, you muſt chooſe a huſſar who knows the Hungarian language, and dreſs him like an Auſtrian. He will thus certainly paſs the poſts, and, ſhould he be diſcovered, it is of no conſequence, becauſe the letter will be written in cypher; but you may aſſure him that, when he arrives, he will certainly be paid ſix ducats.

I have given orders to the governors of the fortreſſes of Schweidnitz, Neiſs, Glatz, and Coſel, and to colonel Kreutz, to ſend in their reports to you of every thing which they ſhall hear of the enemy's motion, and of the places in which the Auſtrians ſhall eſtabliſh their magazines, whence you may judge what are their views.

Should

Should the diſorders of the women, and army-followers, continue, it will be proper to make an example, and to hang ſome of the mob.

I am, &c.

LETTER VIII.

From the Prince of Pruſſia.

In Anſwer to No. VI.

MY DEAR BROTHER, The camp of Neuſchloſs, the morning of July 6, 1757.

SINCE the night of the 3d of July, I have received no letter, ſent by any chaſſeur, and I fear it will be difficult to maintain the communication with the town of Leutmeritz, at leaſt unleſs we throw garriſons into the towns of Auſch and Drum, which places are not tenable, in caſe they ſhould be attacked by the enemy with any force, for which reaſon I do not adviſe the meaſure.

You wiſh us to do every thing poſſible to maintain a footing in Bohemia, till the 15th of Auguſt, but the want of proviſions and forage will render the attempt difficult. All which I think myſelf able to effect is to wait your orders before

before I make the leaſt motion with the army; and, ſhould any immediate reſolution be unavoidably taken, you may be certain that I ſhall conſult with the moſt experienced generals, and with thoſe who know the country, and that, in particular, I ſhall take no thoughtleſs ſtep.

I have received a note from general Brandeis, who arrived at Zittau on the 2d, and I have written to him to begin his march, with ſeven hundred chariots, and with the money. As he will paſs near Gabel, I have detached major Billerbeck with a battalion of grenadiers, to facilitate his paſſage.

But the general has juſt ſent me word that the enemy had anticipated him, and that he had therefore halted with the battalion at Leipa.

A man who is come as a deputy from Reichſtadt, to excuſe the town to the commiſſioners, becauſe it had not delivered in the proviſions that had been preſcribed, the Auſtrians having guarded all the roads, tells me that he ſaw dragoons and cuiraſſiers, and that he had heard it affirmed that the corps of Nadaſti had paſſed the Iſer, at Munchengraetz, to march to Zittau, and that the vanguard of this corps was near Nimes. This information did not a little diſtreſs us, relative to the march of general Brandeis; to be certain, we ſhall to-day ſend two

ſtrong

ſtrong patrole parties, the one toward Gabel, and the other toward Nimes, to reconnoitre the force of the enemy; and, as we cannot now diſpenſe with our communication with Zittau, the ſtrength of the detachment, which muſt march to ſeize on Gabel, muſt be proportioned to the report which the patroles ſhall make. General Brandeis is informed of all, and has orders not to march till he ſhall be ſent to. The regiment of Brand has, to-day, entered Leipa, where the bakery is fixed.

General Goltz has written to general Retzau, concerning bread, and demands a new ſupply of flour.

Our infantry is twenty-one thouſand one hundred and thirty-five men ſtrong, and the cavalry ſix thouſand and thirty-ſeven, huſſars included.

I have the honour to be, &c.

LETTER IX.

From the Prince of Pruſſia.

MY DEAR BROTHER, The camp of Neuſchloſs, the afternoon of July 6, 1757.

WE have received information from three different ſpies, whom general Werner had ſent

ſent to watch the proceedings of the enemy. The corps of Nadaſti is to march in three columns; the firſt to conſiſt of huſſars, pandours, cavalry, and regular infantry, that yeſterday arrived at Nimes; their intention is to cut off our communication with Zittau. The ſecond column is at Hirſchberg, and is compoſed of the three regiments of Saxon cavalry, four regiments of huſſars, and a thouſand pandours. The remainder of the corps of Nadaſti is now between Dauba and Berſtein.

The army of Daun is ſuppoſed to have paſſed the Iſer, near Benatck, the day before yeſterday, and to have made a march in advance to-day. It is openly affirmed in the enemy's army, that his intention is to cut us off from Zittau and the magazine.

This various information, confirmed by our patroles, has induced me to follow the council of general Winterfeld, and to pitch the camp at Leipa, where general Brandeis, paſſing through Georgenthal, may join us. After this junction, we ſhall be able to detach a heavy corps toward Gabel. The communication with Leutmeritz will not be more difficult there than from our preſent camp.

The principal reaſon which has induced me to act thus, is the preſervation of our communi-

cation

cation with Zittau, and the junction of general Brandeis with the proviſions, and the war cheſt, two things that are in danger of being loſt if they be not properly protected.

General Winterfeld will march to-morrow to Georgenthal, with five battalions and a regiment of dragoons and huſſars, to clear the road of Zittau.

I have received no report from major Belling, who patroles toward Gabel.

I am, &c.

LETTER X.

From the King.

MY DEAR BROTHER, Leutmeritz, July 7, 1757.

I HAVE received your two letters of the 6th, on the ſame ſubject. I am ſatisfied, thus far, with the progreſs you have made with the army, but I hope you will henceforth retreat no further, that we may not find ourſelves in the heart of Saxony, before we know where we are. It ſeems to me that the poſt of Neuſchloſs was ſtrong enough, and that you had only to have detached two heavy bodies, that might have marched to meet general Brandeis, and to facilitate

cilitate his paſſage. At preſent I have reaſon to fear he may be attacked by the enemy, before he ſhall come up with you; becauſe the huſſars have brought me information that they heard firing, in the vicinity of Gabel, which could be nothing elſe.

The corps of huſſars, that has been detached againſt you, cannot be ſo ſtrong as it is reported to be, becauſe the enemy has detached two regiments of huſſars to the city of Nurenberg. A regiment encamps in theſe parts, and three ſquadrons are ſtill with the army.

When you ſhall have the flour and money, which general Brandeis brings, I beg you, in the name of God, not to retreat any further, for I can foretel you will find no forage in Saxony; therefore by retiring thither you will want every thing, and conſequently every thing will be loſt.

We have this evening received letters from marſhal Daun, by a trumpet. The letter comes from Coſmonos. I hope you have received that which I ſent you this morning by a huſſar.

I am, &c.

LETTER XI.

From the Prince of Pruſſia.

MY DEAR BROTHER, The camp of Leipa, the night of July 7, 1757.

WE this day entered the new camp of Leipa, which is very ſtrong, and which will render the march of general Brandeis ſafe. We are now encamped three miles from Tetſchen. I ſhall order the roads of Budiſſin and Leutmeritz to be reconnoitred with all haſte.

I this day received advice of majors Belling, and Billerbeck, who have fortunately arrived at Gabel, and have thrown a garriſon into the town. They ſaw pandours on their march, and five hundred huſſars ſkirmiſhed with ours; we only loſt a horſe.

General Winterfeld ſhould, this evening, arrive at Georgenthal; he has ſent to inform me that he hoped the road of Zittau would be ſecure to-morrow, and that he had diſpatched orders to general Brandeis to begin his march.

One of our trumpets is this moment returned; he has been as far as the village of Walken, in the neighbourhood of Hirſchberg, where he found a major with a detachment of the Odonell regiment. He met with huſſars in every village

village through which he paſſed, but he ſaw no pandours. He has not brought any letters, becauſe they told him I ſhould receive ſome tomorrow, by a trumpet from the enemy.

It is difficult to divine what are the intentions of the Auſtrians, for the number of light troops prevent us from obtaining intelligence, and no dependance can be placed on that of the country people. The army of Daun ſhould in all probability be encamped near Buntzlau, the corps of Nadaſti near Hirſchberg, and another corps according to report is on its march toward Weiſwaſſer, and is to paſs on the ſide of Zittau. This plan will be rendered abortive.

I have not received the leaſt information of the army of prince Charles.

One of the great inconveniences is that, to undertake a march, I muſt have thirty-ſix hours preparation, in order that I may ſend the baggage forward, in which I abound. I have cauſed it to be inſpected by a ſuperior officer, that I may rid myſelf of what is ſuperfluous. Much however muſt be kept, ſuch as the regiments cannot do without.

The intelligence which may be ſent me, by the governors of the Sileſian fortreſſes, may inform me what are the projects of the enemy; but in caſe any attempt ſhould be made on that

province, and eſpecially on the magazine of Schweidnitz, I ſhould deceive you were I to ſay that, ſituated as I am, I could contribute to render it ineffectual, according to your orders.

I yeſterday ſent a diſguiſed huſſar with a letter. I know not whether he will arrive, but I have made three copies of that letter, which I have ſent you by three different meſſengers.

I have written to-day to the governor of Teſchen, that he may inform me of the ſtate of affairs in thoſe parts. I ſhall eſteem myſelf happy to conform to your wiſhes in all things: you may be aſſured that the hope of my heart will be accompliſhed, whenever I am able to convince you of my eſteem, and of the reſpect with which I ſhall all my life remain, &c.

LETTER XII.

From the King.

MY DEAR BROTHER, Leutmeritz, July 7, 1757.

I HAVE certain information that the army of the Empire, which is aſſembling at Furth, is no more than eighteen thouſand ſtrong, which number is inſufficient to make a diverſion againſt me.

I almoſt

I almoſt ſuſpect that the Auſtrians intend to enter Sileſia by Landſhut. General Kreutz has written to inform me that a corps of three thouſand men ſhewed itſelf in thoſe diſtricts, but that it has retired. Daun covers the motions of his army by his light troops. God however knows what he will do. Keep up an unremitting correſpondence with captain d'O, lieutenant-governor of Glatz, and with general Kreutz, that you may obtain certain information of the enterprizes of the enemy in thoſe quarters; and make the diſpoſition for marching with ſpeed, if you ſhould be obliged to incline that way. General Winterfeld and major Embres, of the engineers, are acquainted with the country, and with the camps you ought to take, ſhould that province become the theatre of war; and, could you but be before the enemy at Landſhut, you would find advantageous camps among the mountains to cover Sileſia.

The firſt thing you ought to obſerve is that, ſhould you be obliged to retreat through Luſatia, you will be conſtrained, ſhould Nadaſti follow you with his cavalry, to oppoſe a corps to him which you muſt leave at Zittau, that you may prevent invaſions; ſhould this happen, I will relieve theſe troops, and will alſo ſend you a reinforcement, as powerful as I poſſibly can.

I am, &c.

LETTER XIII.

From the Prince of Pruſſia.

In Anſwer to No. XII.

MY DEAR BROTHER, The camp of Leipa, July 8, 1757.

THE huſſar ſafely brought me the letter of the 7th.

To maintain an intercourſe with the governors of the fortreſſes of Sileſia will be difficult, becauſe all communication is intercepted by the numerous light troops of the enemy. I will however do all I can.

I earneſtly requeſt you would ſend me your poſitive orders how you wiſh me to act. Am I to cover Sileſia, or to remain in Bohemia to protect the town of Zittau, as long as I have any forage? If you fear an irruption into Sileſia, and think it neceſſary I ſhould march thither, I believe it will be difficult, and even impoſſible, to take any road except that of Zittau, becauſe of the quantity of baggage which muſt be ſent forward, and loaded with neceſſaries. Bread muſt beſide be taken from the magazine of Zittau, and we muſt wait there till the waggons ſhall be loaded. Fifteen battalions at leaſt, ſuch as they

at

at preſent are, will be requiſite to cover Zittau in caſe I ſhould paſs into Sileſia, for the corps under Nadaſti is ſuppoſed to be ten thouſand ſtrong.

General Brandeis has written to me from Gabel, where he arrived on the 7th with the firſt waggons. I have detached colonel Croce, with two battalions of infantry, and with huſſars and dragoons, to facilitate his march.

We have not the leaſt intelligence of the army of Daun; our whole camp is ſurrounded by ſmall parties of the enemy's huſſars, but they dare not leave the woods.

A man, who is come from Goerlitz, reports that a corps of the enemy is encamped to the ſouth of that place; of this I will endeavour to gain information.

I have not received any news, to-day, from general Winterfeld. His purpoſe was to be this day at Georgenthal, where I believe him to be, and that the report he ſent has been intercepted.

General Goltz has aſſured me that we cannot begin our march till the 14th, becauſe flour will not arrive ſooner than to-morrow, and that we muſt have bread for ſix days.

General Winterfeld is juſt returned; he has left two battalions at Reichſtadt. He only ſaw four hundred pandours, and ſome huſſars, who

retired immediately. The road of Zittau is, at preſent, rendered ſafe by the garriſon of Reichſtadt, and I believe general Brandeis will arrive at the camp to-morrow.

General Goltz has informed me it is abſolutely neceſſary to give commands that the waggons of Sileſia, which have brought the flour, ſhould be returned, for that the conſumption of bread and forage would otherwiſe be too great. I have followed his advice, and given orders accordingly.

General Winterfeld tells me he has been informed that only ſix hundred horſe are marching toward Sileſia; but he hopes to gain more certain intelligence of the enemy's deſigns, having received a very artful ſpy.

I am, &c.

LETTER XIV.

From the Prince of Pruſſia.

In Anſwer to the firſt Letter of the King, dated July 7.

MY DEAR BROTHER,

The camp of Leipa, July 10, 1757.

THE huſſar, that I yeſterday ſent to Leutmeritz, with the ſecond letter, not having been

been able to paſs, is fortunately returned this morning. I hope my preſent meſſenger will be more ſucceſsful, and I have entruſted him with both my letters.

General Brandeis ſafely arrived yeſterday, with all the waggons, by which we have obtained bread for ten days, and pay for two months. He has brought the augmentation.

Two hundred and thirteen men are loſt to the infantry by deſertion. The poſts of Reichſtadt and Gabel being occupied, the convoy was able to paſs in ſecurity. Some huſſars and pandours ſhewed themſelves to the rear-guard, but were repulſed by a cannon ſhot.

An Auſtrian trumpet arrived yeſterday, with a letter from general Morotz, whoſe quarters are at Nimes. His corps muſt be about five or ſix thouſand ſtrong, and is compoſed of huſſars and pandours.

I ſhall to-morrow ſend back the empty waggons general Brandeis has brought, which ſhall be eſcorted by two battalions. Theſe battalions will remain at Zittau, to cover the convoys whenever we ſhall have occaſion to ſend for flour to that place.

I remit you the report of a deſerter and of another man; for, though I place little faith in

them, I thought it my duty not to fail to inform you of what they relate.

I will not without orders, or important reaſons, quit this camp. I never imagined that, paſſing with the army through Zittau into Luſatia, I ſhould make any long ſtay there, but was perſuaded I ſhould march through Luſatia into Sileſia, to cover the frontiers. Being ignorant of all your intentions, I imagine I have done well to reconnoitre the roads of Zittau, and to place garriſons in the towns which cover that road. Colonel le Noble, ſupported by a hundred huſſars, means to-night to attack a corps of pandours; he is gone to reconnoitre the roads of the wood, and imagines he ſhall cut them off.

An Auſtrian trumpet is arrived, with a letter from marſhal Daun, dated at Munchengraetz on the 7th. With him has been ſent me a ſervant, who had robbed his maſter, captain Bos of Itzenblitz. I examined the latter, and I add his account.

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LETTER XV.

From the Prince of Pruſſia.

MY DEAR BROTHER,

The camp of Leipa,
July 11, 1757.

WE have ſent an Auſtrian trumpet, to-day, to Leutmeritz, with letters for general Retzau, and have ſent with him a trumpet of our own, for his ſecurity, who bears letters from us. We hope the advanced poſts of the enemy will ſuffer him to paſs.

Our attempt has ſucceeded, and our trumpeter is juſt returned, with a letter. I moſt humbly entreat you would honour me with your commands reſpecting the preſent ſtate of affairs, which is this.

All reports agree that the grand combined army has paſſed the Iſer near Munchengraetz, and is marching to encamp at Nimes, where general Morotz at preſent is. By this motion it will approach the road of Zittau, paſſing through Gabel, and Reichſtadt. Should the enemy there pitch his camp, he may arrive at Zittau as ſoon as we can; and, ſhould we intend to march thither, the ſhorteſt road we can take, though

though ſufficiently impracticable, will be that of Georgenthal, if we do not wiſh the enemy to take us in flank.

I here add the relation of an Auſtrian deſerter and of a woman, together with the report of major Belling at Gabel. General Winterfeld has endeavoured to learn what he could from the Auſtrian trumpet, that arrived here yeſterday, but all he could learn was that general Keil has been detached with fifteen thouſand men.

I once again requeſt you would do me the favour to ſend me poſitive orders how to act. I muſt further add, we have bread only ſufficient for ten days, and that the tranſport of flour which general Brandeis has taken to Zittau will but be enough for three weeks.

I ſhall cauſe the camp which I have been adviſed to occupy, in caſe Daun ſhould fix his at Nimes, to be reconnoitred. According to this our right wing ſhould extend to Brins, we ſhall have Walten in front, and our left will be on the ſide of Gabel, by which the road of Zittau will be covered.

Our greateſt want is meat; the regiments are not all provided with oxen, and the country people cannot ſend in ſufficient ſupplies, becauſe of the impediments afforded by the huſſars and

pandours. Le Noble has ſet fire to ſome pandour barracks, and has taken their cloaks.

I am, &c.

LETTER XVI.

From the King.*

MY DEAR BROTHER, Leutmeritz, July 8, 1757.

I BEG you to keep carefully on your guard, and not to divulge what I am now going to write, which is of the utmoſt conſequence.

You need entertain no fears for Schweidnitz, which place is well provided, and cannot eaſily be taken, unleſs by a formal ſiege.

The firſt thing you have to do is to join general Brandeis with the military cheſt, the ſeven hundred waggons of flour, and the augmentation, and immediately to ſend back the waggons unloaded.

Here follows what the enemy may do—

1. He may form projects on Sileſia. I perceive that at preſent he has no ſuch thoughts,

* Though the date of this letter be previous to thoſe of the two laſt, it is inſerted at this place, that the connection of the former might not be interrupted.

and

and that his only purpoſe is to drive us out of Bohemia. Therefore when we ſhall retire into Saxony, which we ought to do this day ſix weeks, and when the enemy ſhall have made every effort to penetrate into Luſatia, and ſend a corps toward Cotta, you are not ignorant of what my opinion is relative to Sileſia, as well as Luſatia. I have certain information that he has detached three regiments to Nurenberg. The army of the Empire cannot begin its march before the middle of the month of Auguſt *.

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You will do the ſame in Luſatia; but, as we are not able to act offenſively on two ſides, you muſt think of fortifying your camps, while I ſhall make my expeditions. I will afterward ſend you ſuccour; or I will do the ſame, and you ſhall act offenſively. Should this happen, I moſt ſincerely adviſe you to make your attacks with one wing.

That your officers may ſoon be taught theſe manœuvres, you muſt be quick to incorporate

* A paſſage is omitted, which relates only to camp manœuvres to be made in Saxony; which omiſſion was made becauſe the Letters appeared during the campaign, which this paſſage might have injured. Beſide that it had no relation to the manœuvres of the army in Bohemia.

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the battalions of Kahlenberg, and of Baer, with the ruined battalions. The regiments of Manſheim and of Wiederſheim ſhould be united with thoſe of Bevern, of prince Henry, of Munchaw, of Schultz, and of Weid. The generals, to render them complete, may ſelect the beſt officers. The other officers, general Wiederſhim, and thoſe who loſe their companies, ſhall be paid from my cheſt; provided with this ſuccour you may return to the camp of Neuſchloſs. This march in advance will be of no ill conſequence.

LETTER XVII.

From the Prince of Pruſſia.

In Anſwer to the preceding Letter.

MY DEAR BROTHER,

The camp of Leipa, July 12, 1757.

I YESTERDAY evening received your letter of the 8th; you may be aſſured I ſhall not abuſe the confidence you place in me, and that I ſhall inviolably obſerve ſecrecy in every thing that relates to what you have told me in your laſt letter.

You wiſh me ſincerely, and without diſguiſe, to inform you what are my thoughts on the preſent ſtate of affairs.

You cannot but know that general Brandeis has fortunately joined us, and that he has left flour at Zittau, ſufficient for about a month. The roads of Zittau are very impracticable. Should we wiſh to procure bread for ten days, we muſt ſend five hundred and fifty waggons for flour, with an eſcort in proportion to the force of the enemy. In the camp where we at preſent are, keeping Gabel and Reichſtadt, the convoy may paſs and repaſs in full ſecurity, becauſe we are able to ſupport theſe two poſts. Should a corps of the enemy encamp at Nimes, we can ſend ſome battalions to encamp at Gabel; and, in caſe I ſhould think proper to pitch a camp toward the low lands, I pledge myſelf that the enemy cannot afford me any impediment. But I cannot pledge myſelf that the roads of Zittau will remain open; and, ſhould the enemy take but one convoy of flour, we ſhould want bread, which would be followed with ſerious conſequences.

According to the advice we receive, the enemy is encamped between Liebenau and Swigau, the corps of Nadaſti is in front of the camp, and the corps of Morotz near Nimes, ſo as to form the vanguard of Nadaſti.

It appears to me that the greateſt injury the enemy can do us will be to take our magazine.

That

That of Sileſia is protected by the fortreſs of Schweidnitz. There remains, therefore, that of Zittau, which ſhould be carefully watched. If I remain with the army where I am, the Auſtrians will not dare undertake any thing againſt it, becauſe I can arrive at Zittau as ſoon as they, and perhaps ſooner; but, if I am to advance with the army, it is in the enemy's power to march forward with a heavy corps, and to cover that corps with the army.

The want of forage will induce me to quit this camp in about eight days. I leave it, therefore, to your conſideration whether it be better for me to advance, or to form a camp, with the fear however of loſing the communication with the town of Zittau; or whether it is your will that I ſhould enter the camp of Gabel, which is not far diſtant, and where I may cover Zittau.

The light troops of the enemy are rarely ſeen; the greateſt miſchief they can do us will be to impede our convoys. Moſt of the regiments want oxen, which general Goltz has uſed every effort to procure by contribution, and theſe contributions have been little reſpected.

The incorporating of the regiments perhaps ought not to be effected till the troops ſhall be in garriſon; for, were it done in the field, it is much to be feared many of the ſoldiers would deſert,

deſert, before they would be known by their officers.

For this I wait your orders, which I ſhall in all things obey.

I have examined the augmentation of the regiments; the men are proper for ſervice, and tolerably diſciplined. Moſt of the horſes are young, thoſe of the regiments of Kiow and Stechow are in the beſt condition poſſible. The regiment of Wurtenberg is in a very ill condition. Major Dalwitz is abſent, and wounded; for which reaſon his regiment is without a head, without a commanding officer, and did not, therefore, perform the ſervice that might have been expected, at the beginning of the campaign.

I am, &c.

LETTER XVIII.

From the King.

In Anſwer to the foregoing.

MY DEAR BROTHER, Leutmeritz, July 14, 1757.

I HAVE received your letter of the 12th. Should you once retreat, you will in a month be repulſed to Berlin; the enemy does but follow you.

If

If you want oxen, ſend into Luſatia for them. Should you retreat, your forage will fail, and the —— will certainly take you in flank.

Nadaſti is encamped at Gaſtorf, and Daun at Nimes; we heard him beat the march.

I perceive you place too much confidence in the intelligence brought you, and that objects are magnified. You have proviſion waggons which may bring you as much flour as you want. The thing moſt proper, and moſt convenient, is to detach a corps of five or ſix thouſand men to Schweidnitz, to cover the frontiers againſt the incurſions of Keil. I ſhall regulate my conduct according to the information which you ſhall ſend me on this ſubject.

The incorporation of the Saxon regiments muſt be made at the ſame time. Major Dalwitz is ill at Dreſden. I will induce him to return to his regiment. Colonel Putkammer however muſt take care of the regiment, as of his own.

All the enemies we find here conſiſt only of two regiments of huſſars, two of cuiraſſiers, and four of Saxon dragoons, ſix battalions of Hungarian infantry, and about three thouſand pandours.

Laudon is at the Paſcapol with fifteen hundred huſſars and pandours, and between ſeven and eight hundred are ſometimes at Graupen,

Zinwalde, and Offegg, and others at Marienſchein, and Schneeberg. Deduct all theſe from the corps which are ſaid to be oppoſing you, and you will perceive that the number of troops, that ſurround you, has been exaggerated.

I am, &c.

LETTER XIX.

From the King.*

MY DEAR BROTHER, Leutmeritz, July 10, 1757.

EVER ſince yeſterday evening, we have had a heavy corps facing us, which encamps between Wegſtadt and Schurzan. I cannot inform you whether it be or be not the whole army. They have detached a ſtrong corps toward Auch, which I believe to be four thouſand ſtrong; they mean ſome attempt againſt Tetſchen, as far as I can judge; you are at hand, and can detach a corps on the rear, which I cannot do from this place. It will therefore be proper immediately to ſend a corps of ſeven or eight thouſand men, to impede the projects of the enemy.

I am, &c.

* This letter, the date of which likewiſe preceedes that of the laſt, is here inſerted, becauſe it was neceſſary the ſeveral foregoing anſwers ſhould be together.

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LETTER XX.

From the Prince of Pruſſia.

In Anſwer to the preceding.

MY DEAR BROTHER, The camp of Leipa, July 13, 1757.

THE chaſſeur ſafely arrived, to-night, with the letter of the 10th.

General Winterfeld will march with ſeven battalions of dragoons, and ten ſquadrons of huſſars, as ſoon as the bread ſhall be baked. The roads of Budiſſin are ſaid to be very bad, and that artillery cannot paſs them. General Winterfeld will, therefore, march to Kamnitz, and imagines he can be before the corps which, according to his ſpies, mean to attack Tetſchen and Pirna.

I have juſt received a letter from general Kreutz, and another from the miniſter, Schlaberndorf, which inform me that the enemy has taken Landſhut. General Kreutz tells me that he retired, with the battalion, to Schweidnitz. I am ignorant of the force of the enemy. The general refers to the letter which he wrote to me, but which I have never received.

The waggons, eſcorted by two battalions, will go to-morrow to Zittau, for flour for nine days.

Should you command me to march, I muſt have thirty-ſix hours notice, that I may ſend the waggons forward. I have ſtill thirty-three battalions, thirty-five ſquadrons, and fifteeen ſquadrons of huſſars remaining with me.

I have had no news of the enemy. We ſhall change our camp this afternoon, that we may ſtop up the opening, and not occupy too much ground.

A trumpet that we ſent off to-day, with the baggage of general Treſkow and other officers that are priſoners, who requeſted it ſhould be ſent, is juſt returned. His reception was ſigned by general Haddick, and dated at Neuſchloſs.

I am, &c.

LETTER XXI.

From the King.

MY DEAR BROTHER, The camp of Leipa, July 13, 1757*.

TO enable you to form a judgment of what is neceſſary for us both to do, it will be proper for me to deſcribe our preſent ſituation.

You have marſhal Daun to oppoſe, and I

* This letter was not delivered to me till the 22d.

Nadaſti.

Nadaſti. Morotz may take you in flank. If Keil be detached he will probably march to Landſhut.

The Swedes are aſſembling a corps of ſeventeen thouſand men near Stralſund. The French have entered the country of Heſſe. I am informed that eight thouſand of their troops have paſſed the Weſer, that theſe are to be followed by eight thouſand more; theſe ſixteen thouſand men, if I do not miſtake, will join the troops of the Empire, to begin their operations in the country of Halberſtadt and Magdeburg.

This, undoubtedly, is no good news, but it is neceſſary for us to execute well what I am going to ſay.

For our part, it is requiſite you ſhould cover Luſatia; for, ſhould you fail ſo to do, a ſwarm of light troops will march through Sileſia, and carry fire and ſword to the gates of Berlin, becauſe I ſhall not be able to ſend ſuccour in time. I ſhall beware of giving you orders for the execution of this plan; the thing is difficult, conſult your beſt-informed generals, and always chooſe the moſt probable means, according to circumſtances. I ſhall give you no preciſe rules, either relative to the poſts you have to aſſume, or the marches you have to make.

My purpoſe will be to keep the Saxon hills,

and cover my magazine, that the Elbe may be free, and that I may oppoſe the incurſions of the French.

With reſpect to Pomerania, I ſhall ſend a reinforcement of five thouſand men to the garriſon of Stettin. You ought to order the regiment of Bevern to march to Stettin, with all ſpeed. I will at the ſame time ſend the regiment of prince Maurice thither.

To this I add the news, I have juſt received, that the French have taken the town of Embden, and marſhal Lehwald informs me that he is in momentary expectation of the reduction of Memel, becauſe the Ruſſians beſiege that place. Apraxin is entrenched near Kauen; the fleet and the gallies mean to attack the coaſt.

Well may this make your courage droop, yet is it now neceſſary that we ſhould redouble our efforts. My opinion is that we muſt wait the iſſue of a deciſive battle, which one or the other party muſt attempt. Should not this happen, our two armies will be loſt before the cloſe of the campaign. You have no doubt ſeen, in my laſt letter, the manner in which I deſire the regiments to be incorporated. You have the regiments of Manſheim, and of Widerſheim, and the battalion of Kahlenberg grenadiers, and thoſe of Baer and Diezelſky, at your diſpoſal. I

allow you to permit the officers to ſelect, from the Saxon regiments, the beſt enſigns and ſerjeants, for their own.

Should marſhal Daun encamp oppoſite me, with the whole army, you may detach from eight to ten battalions with their huſſars into Sileſia, to cover the mountains, but eſpecially the town of Schweidnitz. In caſe of need, flour for a month may be ſent for, to the magazine at Dreſden. You have a ſufficient ſupply, from this time till the 12th of Auguſt; and you may be ſupplied with more till the 12th of September.

Succeſſive marches, in retreat, conduce to no good; you will always be in want of forage, bread, and other proviſions, and will loſe as many men by deſertion as if you had given battle to the enemy. Under circumſtances ſo deſperate as ours, deſperate meaſures ſhould be choſen.

Note written in the margin, in the hand-writing of the king.

You muſt continually turn to face the grand army. Should it detach a corps to enter Sileſia, do the ſame; and, ſhould the army itſelf march toward Sileſia, and leave a corps in Luſatia, imitate this conduct.

End of the Correſpondence between FREDERIC II. *and* AUGUSTUS WILLIAM, *Prince of Pruſſia.*

LETTERS

BETWEEN

FREDERIC II.

AND

GENERAL FOUQUET.

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LETTER I.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, Breſlau, December 23, 1758.

I SEND you the widow's mite; receive it as willingly as it has been beſtowed. The ſuccour is but ſmall, yet ſuch perhaps as you may ſtand in much need of, during theſe calamitous times.

I at the ſame time ſend you ſome reflections, which are all the fruit I have gathered from my laſt campaign.

According to appearances, our winter quarters will be left in peace. The enemy affords

no

no ſign of an intention to trouble us; but I do not think it will be the ſame with prince Ferdinand.

Leave we the veil however over futurity, by which it is the intention of Providence it ſhould be concealed, and let us ſpeak of the preſent.

Remain perſuaded of the friendſhip and eſteem which I ſhall preſerve for you to the end of my life.

Adieu.

FREDERIC.

REFLECTIONS on Changes neceſſary to be introduced in the Manner of making War.*

OF what good is life, if we live but to vegetate? Of what uſe is obſervation, if it be but to crowd the memory with facts? In a word, of what utility is experience, if not guided by reflection?

Vegetius ſays that war ought to be a ſtudy, and peace an exerciſe; and rightly has he ſaid.

Thought, or, better to explain myſelf, the faculty of combining ideas, is what diſtinguiſhes man from beaſts of burden. A mule, though he

* Theſe are the reflections which the king mentions in the foregoing letter. T.

ſhould

ſhould have made ten campaigns under prince Eugene, would not have improved in his tactics. And to the ſhame of humanity it muſt be confeſſed that, with reſpect to this kind of indolent ſtupidity, many old officers are not ſuperior to ſuch a mule. To follow the routine of ſervice, to be buſied concerning food and clothing, to eat when others eat, to fight when others fight, are the whole warlike deeds of the majority, and conſtitute what is called having ſeen ſervice, and grown grey in arms.

This is the reaſon that ſo many ſoldiers remain in a ſtate of mediocrity. They neither know nor trouble themſelves to enquire into the cauſes of their victories, or their defeats; although ſuch cauſes are themſelves exceedingly real.

That ſevere critic, the judicious and rigid Feuquières, has ſhewn us, by the cenſures he has paſſed on the military men of his time, the road we ought to take, to gain inſtruction. The art of war is refined, ſince the age in which he lived; new modes, and the price of blood, have rendered it more difficult. To obſerve and to enquire into theſe changes is but proper; in order that, having well examined the ſyſtem of our enemies, and the difficulties which preſent themſelves,

ſelves, we may chooſe the beſt means by which they may be ſurmounted.

I ſhall not detain you with any of the projects of our opponents, founded as they are on the number and the power of their allies, the multitude of whom ought to cruſh not only Pruſſia, but every prince who ſhould dare reſiſtance. Nor is it neceſſary to make you remark the maxim they have generally adopted, to attract our forces on one ſide by diverſions, that they may ſtrike ſome grand ſtroke, in the place where they themſelves are, without meeting with any reſiſtance. Neither ſhall I call to your mind their rule of keeping on the defenſive, in preſence of a corps which is ſtrong enough to make head againſt them; and to act with vigour againſt him who, from weakneſs, is obliged to cede.

I will in like manner forbear to remind you of the method I have followed, to ſupport myſelf againſt the Coloſſus that threatened my ruin. This method, which is only become good by the errors of my enemies, by their ſlowneſs, which has ſeconded my activity, and by their indolence, which never knew how to take advantage when opportunity might offer, muſt not be propoſed as a model of imitation.

The imperious law of neceſſity has obliged me

me to commit much to chance. The conduct of a pilot, who neceſſarily commits the veſſel to be the ſport of winds and waves, unable to guide it according to the indications of the compaſs, never can ſerve as a rule.

Our deſign, at preſent, is to form a juſt idea of the ſyſtems which the Auſtrians have followed during the war.

I fix my attention on them as on thoſe of our enemies who have attained moſt art, and perfection, in the trade. I paſs over the French in ſilence, though their knowledge be extenſive, becauſe their inconſiſtency, and levity of mind, overturn, from day to day, ſuch advantages as their abilities may have procured. With reſpect to the Ruſſians, they are equally ferocious and ignorant, nor do they deſerve to be mentioned.

The principal changes which I have remarked in the conduct of the Auſtrian generals, during the war, conſiſts in their encampments, their marches, and that prodigious train of artillery which, being played, even were it not ſupported by an army, would be almoſt ſufficient to deſtroy the foe, who ſhould advance to an attack.

Good camps have been choſen in former wars; witneſs thoſe of Friburg and Nordlingen, which M. de Merci occupied; witneſs a camp which prince Eugene aſſumed, if I do not miſtake,

miſtake, on the Adige, or on the Teſin, where he kept the French army at bay, under the command of M. de Villeroi; witneſs the famous camp of Heilbron; that of Sierk, on the Moſelle; and others, which I have no need to cite.

But let us examine whether generals ever before collected ſo formidable a train of artillery, as that which is at preſent employed by the Auſtrians.

Where were ever ſeen four hundred pieces of ordnance, ranged on the high grounds, with the double advantage of a diſtant and a raſant (or ſweeping) fire?

An Auſtrian camp preſents a formidable front, and numerous ambuſcades in its rear. True it is, the great ſuperiority of their numbers, which permits them to form in ſeveral lines without fear of being outwinged, affords them an eaſy opportunity of ſupplying every want, for they have troops enough.

If we here enter into more minute enquiries, we ſhall diſcover that the principles on which the Auſtrian generals make war are deduced from long meditation.

You will perceive much art in their tactics; extreme circumſpection in the choice of their camps; a great knowledge of their ground;

their manœuvres ſupported; and that degree of prudence which undertakes nothing but with as great a certainty of ſucceſs as war will permit men to acquire.

Never to ſuffer ourſelves to be obliged to fight, is the firſt maxim of every general, and of which their ſyſtem is a conſequence. Hence their ſearch after ſtrong camps, on heights, or on mountains. In other reſpects, the Auſtrians have nothing peculiar to themſelves, in their choice of poſts; except that we ſeldom, if ever, find them in a bad ſtation, and that they pay particular attention continually to poſt themſelves on ground where they cannot be attacked.

Their flanks are conſtantly ſupported by ravines, precipices, marſhes, rivers, or towns. But the particular in which they moſt diſtinguiſh themſelves, from their predeceſſors, is the orders they iſſue to their troops, to profit by every advantage of ground. They pay extreme attention to place each part of the army where it can act moſt effectually.

To ſo much art they add ſtratagem; and often preſent bodies of horſe, to induce the general who oppoſes them to make falſe diſpoſitions. I however have perceived, on more than one occaſion, that whenever they form their cavalry

in one contiguous line they have no intention to bring it into action; and that they only mean to uſe it effectually, when it is in a chequer form.

Remark further that, when you order their cavalry to be attacked, at the beginning of the battle, yours will certainly be victorious; but, if you purſue only to the ſhorteſt diſtance, you will fall into an ambuſcade of infantry, where your men will be cut off. Hence it follows that, when you attack this enemy in a poſt, you muſt refuſe engaging his cavalry, at the commencement of the action; and, if poſſible, place your own horſe beyond the reach of the Auſtrian artillery, that you may employ it, according to circumſtances, either to renew the combat, or, by vigorous purſuit, to profit by victory.

During the preſent war, the Auſtrian army has continually been encamped in three lines, ſupported by that prodigious train of artillery of which I have ſpoken.

The firſt line is formed on the declivity of the hills, where the ground is leſs rugged, and the deſcent gentle, in the form of a glacis, on the ſide where the enemy may attack. This method is good, and is the fruit of experience, which demonſtrates that a raſant fire is more deſtructive than a deſcending fire. The ſoldier beſide, ſtanding

ſtanding aloof on this kind of glacis, has every advantage of ſuperior height, without its inconveniences; the foe who attacks is uncovered, and cannot injure him by his fire; whereas the defendant may cut off his enemy before he can approach further. Should the infantry force the aſſailant to retreat, it may profit by its advantage, being aided and ſeconded by ſituation.

Whereas, ſhould the defendant be placed on ground too high, or too ſteep, the troops will not dare to deſcend, leſt they ſhould be broken; their fire from ſuch a height would not every where annoy the aſſailant; and, making a haſty march, the latter would ſoon find himſelf under the protection of his artillery, and his ſmall arms.

The Auſtrians in like manner preſerve this amphitheatrical poſition in their ſecond line, interlined with batteries like the firſt, where they ſtation bodies of horſe, which are placed there for its ſupport.

Should the aſſailants fall back, the cavalry is ready to charge. If, on the contrary, the firſt line ſhould be forced, the advancing enemy finds, after a ſevere conflict with the infantry, another tolerable poſt, which muſt be attacked anew. The aſſailant is diſordered by the pre-

ceding charge, yet is obliged to march to meet freſh troops, well poſted, and ſeconded by the nature of the ground.

The third line, which at the ſame time ſerves them as a reſerve, is deſtined to reinforce the poſts to which the aſſailant propoſes to penetrate.

The Auſtrian flanks are garniſhed with cannon, like a citadel. They profit by every projection of the ground, there to range artillery, ſo placed as to increaſe their croſs firing; ſo that the attack of an army, with the ground on which it is ſtationed thus prepared, is equal to the attack of a fortreſs, the works of which are not ruined.

Not ſatisfied with all theſe precautions, the Auſtrians ſtill endeavour to cover their front by marſhes, hollow ways deep and impracticable, and rivulets; in a word, by defiles.

Nay, not abſolutely confiding in thoſe ſupports which they have placed on their flanks, they have heavy detachments, on their right and on their left, which encamp at the diſtance of about two miles from their wings, in places which cannot be approached. Their duty is to obſerve the enemy; and, ſhould he inconſiderately attack them, the grand army may

may fall on him in flank and rear, and derange his meaſures ſo as to oblige him to retreat, after a firſt fruitleſs attempt.

But, it will be aſked, how may men ſo well prepared be brought to action? Are theſe troops, that have ſo often been vanquiſhed, become invincible? Certainly no; this I will never allow. I would not however adviſe any perſon to form a haſty reſolution, and march to inſult an army which has had the precaution to poſſeſs itſelf of ſo many advantages.

But, as it is finally impoſſible, during a whole campaign, that the ground ſhould every where be equally advantageous, and that thoſe whoſe office it is to chooſe poſts ſhould not be guilty of ſome miſtakes, I very much approve that ſuch occaſions ſhould be ſeized, without any regard to numbers, provided there be but more than half the quantity of men poſſeſſed by the enemy.

With reſpect to the miſtakes that may be committed, and profited by, they are ſuch as theſe. The foe may leave ſome heights, in the front, or on the ſide of his camp, unoccupied; his flank may not be well ſupported; he may place his cavalry in his firſt line; or he may detach one of the corps, which hover on his wings, too far from the main army; the heights

on which he may take poſt may not be ſufficiently conſiderable; and eſpecially there may be no defile to intercept the march of the aſſailant; in which caſe I ſhould propoſe immediately to ſeize on ſuch heights, and to place as much artillery on them as they can contain.

I have on more than one occaſion obſerved that the Auſtrians, both cavalry and infantry, will not ſtand the fire of artillery. But either conſiderable heights or a plain are neceſſary, advantageouſly to profit by the cannon, which, as well as the muſketry, produce no effect when fired upward. And to attack an enemy without the advantage of fire is to attempt to fight againſt arms with clubs. Succeſs therefore would be impoſſible.

I return to the attack. My advice is that a point ſhould be propoſed from which to make a powerful effort, and to form ſeveral lines which ſhall afford each other mutual ſupport, it being probable that the firſt aſſailants may meet repulſe. I am not abſolutely of opinion that general attacks ought to be made, becauſe they are too dangerous: whereas, when only one wing, or one ſection, of an army is engaged, if it be defeated, the main body remains to cover a retreat, and thus no total defeat can be the reſult.

It muſt further be conſidered that, when you only attack a part of the enemy's army, your loſs of men never can be ſo great as when the battle becomes general; and that, ſhould you ſucceed, you may equally deſtroy your foe, if he have not any defile too near the field of battle; nor any detachments from his main army, ready to cover his retreat.

It ſeems to me that, with that part of your troops which you refuſe to the enemy, you may parade, and by making inceſſant manœuvres oblige him not to quit his poſt, to march to the ſupport of the troops againſt whom your effort is made; by which means that part of his army which you thus keep in check will become uſeleſs.

It perhaps may happen that the enemy may enfeeble himſelf, on one ſide, by marching to the ſuccour of another. When you perceive ſuch a manœuvre ſoon enough, if you have ſufficient force, you ought to profit by the moment.

Neither let us bluſh to imitate whatever we can diſcover of excellent, in the method of our enemies.

The Romans, by adopting the advantageous arms of the nations againſt whom they fought, rendered their troops invincible.

This rule eſtabliſhed, we certainly ought to adopt the Auſtrian manner of encampment; in all caſes ſatisfying ourſelves with a more contracted front, that we may gain in depth, and taking great care to ſtation and to ſecure the wings well.

However embarraſſing it may be, we muſt conform to the ſyſtem of a heavy train of artillery. I have cauſed ours to be very conſiderably augmented, and it will ſupply the defects of our infantry, which cannot but degenerate, in proportion as the war becomes more tedious, and more bloody. Thus, to take meaſures with more judgment, and attention, than they have formerly been taken, is to conform to the old principle of the military art, of never being obliged to fight, contrary to our own inclination.

So many difficulties in the attack of the enemy, in his poſt, gave birth to the idea of attacking him on his march, of profiting by his decampments, and of engaging his rear-guard; according to the example of the affair of Leuſe, or that of Senef.

But for this the Auſtrians have in like manner made proviſion, by only carrying the war into hilly and uneven countries; and by previouſly preparing roads, either through foreſts or marſhy lands; or by following the windings

of

of the valleys, behind the mountains, which they take care firſt to garniſh with ſtrong detachments. Their numerous light troops then march, and take poſt in the woods, or on the ſummits of theſe mountains, and thus cover the march of the army, maſk its motions, and procure it entire ſafety, till a new camp be attained, equally advantageous with the one quitted, and in which the foe cannot be attacked, without imprudence.

I ought, on this occaſion, to induce you to remark that one of the means, employed by our enemies, is previouſly to cauſe the ground they mean to occupy to be examined, by their field engineers, who take its heights, and ſurvey it; nor is the ground choſen, and its defence regulated, till after mature deliberation.

The Auſtrians make many and ſtrong detachments; thoſe that are moſt feeble do not conſiſt of leſs than three thouſand men. I have ſometimes enumerated five or ſix detachments, which have all at once been in the field.

The number of their Hungarian troops is conſiderable; if they happen to be collected they can form a diſtinct corps. So that you have two armies to combat; conſiſting of the heavy troops and the light.

The officers employed in the command of their

their detachments are of conſummate experience, eſpecially in the knowledge of the ground.

They often encamp near our armies; but with the very uſeful circumſpection of poſting themſelves on the tops of mountains, in thick foreſts, or behind double and triple defiles.

From ſuch kind of dens they ſend parties, which act according to circumſtances; and the corps does not ſhew itſelf unleſs an opportunity offers to attempt ſomething of moment. It is the ſtrength of theſe detachments which allows them to approach ſo near our armies, and even to ſurround them; and it is exceedingly vexatious not to have an equal number of ſuch kind of troops.

Our free battalions, formed of deſerters, ill compoſed and weak, generally dare not face them. Our generals fear to venture too far, leſt they ſhould loſe their troops; and thus the foe finds occaſion to approach our camps, to diſturb us, and both night and day to excite alarms.

Our officers, at length become familiarized with ſuch attempts, began to deſpiſe them, and unfortunately contracted a habit of ſecurity which became fatal to us at Hochkirchen, where moſt of them ſuppoſed the attack, which the whole

whole army of the Auſtrians made on our right, to be nothing more than a ſkirmiſh of light and irregular troops.

Not to conceal any thing from you, I cannot however but think marſhal Daun might ſtill make a better uſe of his Hungarian army, which does not do us all the injury it might.

Why have not theſe detached generals made any attempt againſt our foragers? Why have they not attacked the ill-fortified places in which we have depoſited our proviſions? Why have they not on all occaſions endeavoured to intercept our convoys? Why, inſtead of alarming our camps, nightly, by feeble detachments, have they not attacked them in full force, and attacked our ſecond line in the rear? Theſe would have led them to objects of very different importance, and ſuch as are deciſive in war.

The Auſtrians no doubt, like us, are in want of bold and capacious officers, who alone however, among a horde of armed and timid men, deſerve to obtain the rank of general.

I have in a few words ſtated my ideas, concerning the principles on which the Auſtrians make war, at preſent. They have greatly improved the art, but not ſo as to prevent others from aſſuming an entire ſuperiority over them: the very art which they employ, with ſo much

ability, for ſelf defence, furniſhes us with the means of attack.

I have ventured ſome opinions, on the manner of engaging with them in battle; but I have two things to add, which I believe I have omitted.

The firſt is to ſupport the corps that attacks, otherwiſe it will be taken in flank; whereas it is principally deſtined to flank the enemy.

The ſecond is the great attention which the leaders of the forces ought to pay, that the men ſhould not leave their ranks, eſpecially when they repulſe the enemy; for, under ſuch circumſtances, a feeble body of horſe which ſhould fall on them, and find them in diſorder, would be capable of effecting their deſtruction. But, let a general take what precautions he pleaſe, he ſtill has many riſks to run, in the attack of difficult poſts, and in battle always.

The beſt infantry in the world may be repulſed, and beaten, in places where it has to combat againſt ground, enemies, and artillery.

Ours, which is at preſent baſtardized, by too frequent loſſes, ought not to be employed in difficult enterprizes. Its intrinſic valour is not comparable to what it was; and to venture it in attacks which demand conſtancy, and unſhaken fortitude, would be to put it to trials too ſevere.

The

The fate of a kingdom often depends on a deciſive battle: for which reaſon a general ought to engage, if he diſcover advantages; and ought to avoid fighting, if the danger be ſuperior to the good that can be hoped.

There are more ways than one which all lead to the ſame concluſion. We ought to apply ourſelves, if I do not miſtake, to deſtroy the enemy in detail. Of what conſequence are the means we employ, provided we do but gain the ſuperiority?

The enemy makes a number of detachments, the generals of which are not all equally prudent and circumſpect. We ſhould endeavour to ruin theſe detachments, one after the other. Such expeditions ought not to be treated as trifles. The commander ſhould march in full force; the ſhoulder ſhould be ſet to the wheel; and theſe ſkirmiſhes ought to be treated as ſeriouſly as if a deciſive battle were in queſtion. The advantage that would accrue, by twice ſucceſſfully cutting off theſe diſtinct corps, would be, the enemy would be obliged to defend them; his circumſpection would induce him to keep collected, and opportunities might be afforded of attacking the grand army with ſucceſs.

Other ideas preſent themſelves likewiſe to my mind, which I ſcarcely dare propoſe under our preſent

preſent circumſtances, when, overwhelmed by the weight of all Europe, and obliged to ſpeed poſt haſte with armies, that we may arrive ſoon enough to defend this frontier, or fly to the aid of that province, we, inſtead of preſcribing to, are obliged to receive laws from our enemies, and to regulate our motions by their projects.

As violent ſituations however are not of long duration, and as a ſingle accident may lead to great changes in affairs, I think it neceſſary to diſcover my thoughts to you, concerning the ſeat of the war. While we are unable to draw the enemy into the plains, we cannot flatter ourſelves that we ſhall acquire any great advantages over him; but as ſoon as we can deprive him of his hills, his foreſts, and his uneven ground, which ſo well ſerve his purpoſes, his troops will not be able to reſiſt ours.

But where, ſay you, ſhall we find theſe plains? Are they in Moravia, in Bohemia, at Goerlitz, at Zittau, or at Freiberg?

I anſwer no; but ſuch ground may be met with in lower Sileſia; and the inſatiable ardour with which the court of Vienna deſires the recovery of that duchy will induce it, ſoon or late, to ſend armies thither. Obliged to quit their poſts, the ſtrength of their heavy ordnance, and the awful diſplay of their artillery, will

will then be reduced to things of ſmall importance.

Should therefore the Auſtrians, at the beginning of a campaign, enter the plain, their raſhneſs might draw on their ruin; and, from that moment, all the operations of the Pruſſian armies, whether in Bohemia or in Moravia, would ſucceed without difficulty.

You will tell me that to draw the enemy into our own country is but a melancholy expedient. I allow it is ſo; yet is it the only one that remains, ſince it has not pleaſed nature to form plains in Bohemia and Moravia, but to load them with woods and mountains. We therefore have only to chooſe this advantageous ground, without troubling ourſelves with any thing further.

When I praiſe the tactics of the Auſtrians, I cannot but blame their plans of campaign, and their conduct in the grand parts of the war. With forces ſo ſuperior, and allies ſo numerous, as are at the diſpoſal of the court of Vienna, that court cannot be excuſed in acquiring ſuch trifling advantages.

I cannot ſufficiently expreſs my aſtoniſhment at the want of plan between the operations of ſo many armies, which muſt cruſh the whole Pruſſian power, did they make one general effort.

effort. How ſlow are they in the execution of their projects! How many opportunities do they not ſuffer to eſcape! In a word, how many enormous faults do they not commit, to which we have hitherto been indebted for our ſafety!

Such is the fruit I have gathered from this campaign. The ſtrong impreſſion theſe images have made on my mind has ſupplied the reflections I here communicate. I ſhall think the time I have beſtowed in collecting theſe remarks well employed, if you will meditate on them yourſelf, and impart your ideas to me, which are of more worth than my own.

FREDERIC.

Breſlau, December 21, 1758.

LETTER II.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Leobſchutz, January 2, 1759.

RECOLLECT the benefits you have beſtowed; remember you have enriched me beyond my wiſhes. Yet, in addition to ſuch numerous favours, you now ſend me a preſent of two thouſand crowns. For theſe I return you my moſt humble thanks, and will endeavour to employ

employ them in the beſt manner for your majeſty's ſervice.

From theſe traits of generoſity I imagine your majeſty's treaſures are inexhauſtible. So much the better; I congratulate you, and am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER III.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Leobſchutz, January 2, 1759.

IT is aſtoniſhing, and even ſupernatural, to behold your majeſty equal to labours ſo various, and which are all infinitely complex. You are the only man on earth capable of ſuch exertions.

It cannot be denied that the affairs of the war are the moſt preſſing, and the moſt neceſſary; and, from the reflections which your majeſty has made on this important ſubject, I perceive you have thought on it profoundly.

No one is more capable than your majeſty of deep meditation. Your ideas are the acquired fruits of your great experience. No man has ſupported wars comparable to thoſe which you have made; hiſtory affords no equal example;

and, though during the laſt campaign you made no conqueſts, the memorable deeds by which it is characteriſed, the activity you diſplayed, and the courage with which you made head againſt and repulſed the moſt formidable powers of Europe, will ever immortalize you, and give you precedence over all heroes, ancient and modern.

Flattery, ſire, is no part of my character; the whole world does you this juſtice.

It ſeems that, by communicating your reflections on tactics, and on other parts of war, your majeſty approves that I ſhould, or rather commands me to, ſpeak my opinion. The maſter aſks inſtruction from his ſcholar.

I obey, and flatter myſelf I run no riſk, ſince the ſincerity of my heart is known to you; as are my attachment to your ſervice, and my zeal for your auguſt perſon.

Should the war continue, it is to be hoped you will not have the ſame number of enemies to oppoſe, but that ſome will quit the party. If not, the natural conſequence ought to be that we ſhould fall, overpowered.

The remarks, on which your majeſty has employed the moſt attention, principally relate to three points.

1. The manner of encampment practiſed b the Auſtrians.

2. The

2. The attack of their army, on its march.

3. Their heavy train of artillery.

With reſpect to the firſt point, which is that of the unapproachable camps of the Auſtrians, as well in front as in flank, I do not think it would be proper to imitate them, except when the object ſhould be to defend a defile, or the paſs of a province; to cover a fortreſs, or to avoid a battle; that is, ſuppoſing our army to be much inferior to theirs: otherwiſe two armies, having the ſame end to obtain, would be in danger of paſſing a campaign without any conſiderable progreſs, which does not ſuit our ſituation. Neither can this poſſibly happen; for the enemy will ſend detachments into this or that part, whence changes in the poſition of the army will reſult, ſuch as may give occaſion to battles.

I think that a camp having its wings well ſupported, ſo as not to be in danger of being turned, and the front of which ſhould be on a declivity, without any real advantage to either party—I think, I ſay, ſuch a camp is ſuitable to us. A poſition like that might induce the Auſtrians to march to attack us, and make it eaſy for us to meet them; in this caſe, we ſhould only have to find camps in which the wings, and the flanks, might be well ſupported.

Nothing can be more ſolid, better imagined, or more deſirable, than to draw the enemy into the plain.

True it is, the project is impracticable, except by the ſacrifice of a great part of your country; but, on the other ſide, it might aid our final purpoſe. In ſuch a caſe, it would only be neceſſary to garniſh well the frontier places.

I know not whether my conjecture be juſt; but, after an examination of the conduct of general Daun, during the laſt campaign, I doubt whether you will ſucceed in drawing the old fox from his den, ſhould he be continued in the command of the army. He has formed a ſyſtem totally oppoſite to your plan.

The battles of Hohen-Friedberg and of Liſſa are continually preſent to the minds of the Auſtrians. Should your project take place, two conſequences would be the reſult; we ſhould yield the precedency to our enemies, and ſhould ſuffer them to march firſt; whereas we have always anticipated them, at the opening of each campaign.

The ſecond point relates to the attack of their army on its march; but, as your majeſty has obſerved, their marches are ſo well conducted, and ſo exactly maſked, by the multitude of their light

light troops, that we can have but little hopes of gaining real advantages, on ſuch occaſions.

The ſame may be ſaid of the attack of their poſts, which are equally ſtrong and inapproachable. Such aſſaults would but be to ſacrifice a prodigious number of men, and ſucceſs would afterward be very uncertain.

If the poſt be bad, they will forſake it; as we have ſeen practiſed by ſeveral of their generals.

Notwithſtanding theſe difficulties, it would be very vexatious ſhould no opportunity preſent itſelf, during the whole courſe of a campaign, in which they might be found at fault.

What relates to the artillery is the third point, and is a capital one, paſt diſpute. Your majeſty allows the following facts: that the artillery of the Auſtrians is much ſuperior to ours; that it is better ſerved; and that it carries further, from the goodneſs of the powder, and the quantity uſed, in making up the charge for each gun.

The execution of this formidable artillery alone gave occaſion to the remarks, which your majeſty has made, on the intrinſic valour of our preſent infantry.

The Romans adopted the well-tempered ſwords of the Gauls, and ſubjected their conquerors. Let us, ſire, follow their example,

as you have yourſelf reſolved to do; let us oppoſe artillery to artillery, with an equal proportion of gunners, and you will make the regiments of your army ſo many ſacred Theban legions.

It is nothing but the ſuperiority of that artillery, the effects of which they have felt, that has ſomewhat occaſioned them to relax from their native ardour.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER IV.

From the King.

Breſlau, January 9, 1759.

I AM not ſo rich as you ſuppoſe, my dear friend; but, by the aid of induſtry and reſources, I have collected funds for the next campaign; ſo that all arrears ſhall be punctually paid off, at the end of February. I have divided, between you and two other friends, what remained at my own diſpoſal; you may therefore rather compare me to the beggar, Irus, than to the wealthy Crœſus.

I thank you for your anſwer to the military reflections,

reflections, which I ſent you. I am of your opinion; but not a word of all this.

The Turks begin to move; they will not long remain with their arms croſſed. The king of Spain is dying.

Thus the cowardly conſpirators, who labour to effect my ruin, will find employment.

Should the turbaned gentry turn toward the barbarians*, the whole horde will diſappear, and Sweden will conſequently give up the game. Should they attack our inſolent neighbours (the Auſtrians) the latter will not be able at once vigorouſly to oppoſe me and the circumciſed. And, further, ſhould the king of Spain die, war will immediately break out in Italy; and our thoughtleſs and frantic countrymen will be obliged to quarrel with their inſolent and proud tyrants.

All this muſt not prevent us from forming a plan for preſent operations. Time muſt reveal future events, and teach us what meaſures our enemies will take; we then ſhall be able to determine how it will be proper to act.

Adieu, my dear friend. I wiſh you health and proſperity this new year, and embrace you with

* The king called the Ruſſians barbarians, through the whole courſe of the war, till the death of Elizabeth. T.

all my heart, aſſuring you of that eſteem and tenderneſs which will end only with life.

FREDERIC.

TOWARD the end of March 1759, general Fouquet, ſeeing the Auſtrians reinforce their troops on the frontiers of upper Sileſia, and endeavour to force a paſſage on the ſide of Zugmantel and Weidenau, to cut off his communication with Neuſtadt and Neiſs, retired from the environs of Leobſchutz, on the 28th, beyond Hotzenplotz, and placed his right wing at Neuſtadt, his left toward Ober-Glogau, and his general quarters at Elſchnig.

The Auſtrians, on their part, drew in their quarters, in Bohemia, toward Landſhut; and, on the 25th of March, they attacked the advanced poſts of the army of the king, toward Schœmberg, Liebau, and Landſhut.

The king, who had left Breſlau, on the 23d, to eſtabliſh his general quarters at Rahnſtock, and who thought Glatz in danger, following the advice of general Fouquet, ſent a detachment to occupy the heights of Ober-Eich, and of Nieder-Eich, between Glatz and Wartha; while he himſelf was encamped near Landſhut.

The following letters contain the reſult of this poſition.

LET-

LETTER V.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Elſchnig, April 2, 1759.

SHOULD the Auſtrians wiſh to undertake the ſiege of Glatz, as your majeſty ſuppoſes, I certainly believe that the corps, deſtined for that operation, will come from Gruliſch and Nachod; and that the main army will take poſt, to cover the ſiege, near Wünſchelburg, or Batzdorf; where it will be impoſſible for it to be attacked.

Under ſuch circumſtances, nothing better can be done, in my opinion, than to detach five or ſix battalions, to occupy the heights near the villages of Upper-Eich and Lower-Eich, between Wartha and Glatz; plans for which have been given to colonel Wreeden, and captain Winanco.

Perhaps, by this means, the meaſures of the enemy may be diſconcerted.

Every thing is here in tranquillity; the frontiers have not yet been paſſed. Flour and forage however are continually tranſported to Hoff and Troppau; and it is ſaid that general Marſhal will have the command of the enemy's corps, in theſe parts.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER VI.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, Buntzlau, April, 3, 1759.

I HAVE made all the arrangements which you propoſed. About three in the afternoon, Ramin will be at Wartha, and general Seidlitz, with five regiments of horſe, in the environs of Frankenſtein, whence he will write to you, by which means we may obtain intelligence of whatever ſhall happen.

I do not think the enemy will attempt any thing on the ſide of Landſhut; at leaſt, not unleſs I ſhall weaken myſelf too much.

True it is, the ſeaſon for acting is yet early; but, if I can now anticipate the enemy's deſigns, ſo much will be gained. It remains to enquire how we ſhall afterward eſcape from our difficulties.

The French, Auſtrians, and troops of the Empire, have been driven out of Franconia. Prince Ferdinand will preſs warmly upon them: this will leave our right at peace; but we have ſtill to aſk what will be the ſituation of the left.

It is neceſſary to be very alert, and ſo to regulate our manœuvres as not to ſuffer them to be

impeded; and alſo not unſeaſonably to diſcover our intentions.

Adieu, my dear friend. When ſhall we ſee an end to this dog's life?

FREDERIC.

LETTER VII.

From the King.

Pokkain, April 3, 1759.

AN idea has ſtruck me, which I ſhall communicate to you, my dear general, ſuch as it has taken birth in my brain, that we may examine how far it may be capable of execution. It is this—

You perceive what a multitude of enemies I have to encounter, and the forces they aſſemble. They ſtill defer any attack on me, becauſe perhaps the ſeaſon is not ſufficiently advanced. This inſpires me with the wiſh, if poſſible, to derange their projects, either on this ſide, or on that.

I can effect nothing here, indeed; for, though I may drive ſome from their poſts, to a certain diſtance, I cannot deſtroy their magazines*. This

* The plan of the king was not confined to the deſtruction of the enemy's magazines in upper Sileſia, but embraced the ruin

This has given birth to the plan of acting in upper Sileſia; and, if it be poſſible, to ruin their magazines at Troppau and Hoff.

Let me beg you to tell me your opinion. You have fifteen battalions; to theſe I can add ſix or ſeven more, and ſome regiments of horſe. Inform me what are your thoughts, for I am not minutely acquainted with the ſituation of the Auſtrians, on your ſide. If the attempt be practicable, we ſhall gain two or three months repoſe, on that ſide, which will be a great point; and we ſhall take vengeance for certain affronts, which I bear in mind.

Your anſwer will determine what part I ſhall take, and this ſhould be done quickly.

Farewel, my dear friend.

FREDERIC.

ruin of all the magazines which had been formed by the Auſtrians, along the frontiers. This project general Knobloch, in the month of February, began to put in execution, in Thuringia. General Woberſnow deſtroyed the Ruſſian magazines at Poſen, and along the Wartha; and prince Henry very ſucceſsfully did the ſame in Bohemia, and in Franconia; as will be circumſtantially ſeen in the following letters.

LET-

LETTER VIII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Elſchnig, April 4, 1759.

THE letter of your majeſty, dated the 3d inſtant, came ſafely to hand.

General Ramin ſent me advice that he ſhould march to-morrow, the 5th, to Wartha, with five battalions.

I have written to colonel Wreeden, and to lieutenant-colonel D'O, relative to the poſt which the five battalions are to occupy, between Wartha and Glatz, near Upper-Eich and Lower-Eich; with orders for them to throw up abatis, and all neceſſary intrenchments.

To expel the Auſtrian troops, and thoſe of the Empire, from Franconia, will be very favourable to the right wing of your majeſty's army; and I wiſh every poſſible ſucceſs to the attempt.

I ſuppoſe the Auſtrians have intentionally ſtrengthened themſelves ſo much, near Landſhut, from the fear that your majeſty ſhould derange their plans, by penetrating, on that ſide, into Bohemia. Could this be effected at preſent, when the campaign is beginning, all our following operations would be ſenſible of the advantage.

According to advice from lieutenant-colonel

Saſs, of Brieg, ſome Coſſacks have been perceived in the vicinity of Wartenberg, on the frontiers of Poland. In other reſpects, all here is in tranquillity.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER IX.

From the King.

April 6, 1759.

YOU anſwer me like a Norman, my dear friend*. I aſk whether any thing can be done, on your ſide; and you talk to me of an expedition toward Trautenau, where there is certainly very little to be effected.

But, ſuppoſe I ſhould have driven them from thoſe parts, what would be the conſequence, and where ſhould I find proviſions? The country is eaten up, and there is not at preſent any forage; therefore how could the army exiſt? how remain without ſtraw, oats, hay, and with every other infernal want, among theſe curſed mountains?

This is a difficulty, by the ſolving of which you will give me pleaſure.

Adieu, my dear general. I embrace you.

FREDERIC.

* To anſwer like a Norman, is to equivocate. T.

LET-

LETTER X.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Elſchnig, April 6, 1759.

THE project which your majeſty was pleaſed to communicate to me, in your letter of the 3d of this month, could not have been better conceived.

It was my duty however to ſend you, as I here do, a circumſtantial account of things, and ſituations.

Your majeſty will ſee that the principal magazine is at Hoff; and that there are only ſome ſmall ſtores at Troppau, and Freudenthal.

Since the Auſtrians have eſtabliſhed a magazine at Hoff, they have collected their principal forces along the Oppa.

Should any attack on this magazine be attempted, the paſſage of the Oppa, and that of the Mora, muſt firſt be forced.

To execute this, it will be neceſſary to maſk Troppau, and Jægerndorf; and to penetrate with a corps near Creutzendorf.

The firſt march may be made toward Leobſchütz, or Bladen. They will not fail to break down the bridges over the Oppa; as they already have done near Jægerndorf, and in other parts;

parts; and to take poſt on the other ſide of the Oppa, on the heights which overlook that country, to diſpute our paſſage.

A paſſage having been forced, Jægerndorf and Troppau muſt not be left in our rear; but it will be neceſſary to ſeize on Troppau, and throw ſome battalions into the place, to cover a retreat.

As ſuch an enterprize can only be executed in a ſpace of ſome days, it is to be ſuppoſed that the foe, attacked in his centre, will fall back, take poſt near his magazine of Hoff, and occupy the heights beyond the Mora, near Spakendorf, Heidenpultz, and Herzogſwalde. This paſſage will be ſtill more difficult to force than that of the Oppa; becauſe of the ſituation, and the heights which lie beyond the Mora.

It muſt further be conſidered that the regiment of Bornſtædt muſt be obliged to remain at Patſchkau; and that of Jung-Brunſwick, at Neuſtadt; that a garriſon muſt moreover be left at Leobſchutz, and another at Troppau; ſo that, on my arrival at the Mora, I ſhall be deprived of ſome battalions, whereas the forces of the enemy will be all united beyond the river.

The attempt may notwithſtanding be ſucceſsful, though it may ſtill more eaſily fail.

Such

Such are the obſervations which it has pleaſed your majeſty to demand; but, as you are acquainted with the paſſes of the Oppa and the Mora, and have very accurate maps, I ſubmit the deciſion of the whole affair to you, and wait your orders.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER XI.

From the King.

April 8, 1759.

I HAVE received your anſwer, my dear general, and allow the expedition to be difficult and uncertain. But, on the other hand, I find it to be ſo neceſſary as not to be neglected. It muſt be undertaken, that we may not ſuffer the halter to be thrown over our necks.

I will furniſh you with five battalions, and the neceſſary artillery, as well as with pontons. You muſt explain to Wendeſſen whatever is requiſite. The regiments of Bornſtædt, of Moſel, and of Brunſwick, and all the bead-roll, muſt be taken with you. I have five regiments of horſe ready; but they muſt only be employed in the paſſage of the Oppa, and for the blockade of Troppau

and Jægerndorf, and muſt not be led toward the Mora, where they can be of no ſervice.

Treſkow may alſo aid in the expedition; eſpecially as it will ſerve to cover his fortreſs.

As ſoon as I ſhall have received an anſwer from Wendeſſen, I will ſet all in motion; and, when your corps ſhall be aſſembled, you will only have immediately to act; for, I have further to tell you that, when the affair is over, I ſhall withdraw the regiments which I ſend you, and likewiſe the artillery, which I do but lend, that I may perform the ſame ſervice on Nachod.

You have about twenty thouſand men in face of you, and we have nearly the ſame number. Should we drive away theſe gentry and their dragoons, and ſhould we ſeize on their proviſions, Daun will be obliged to new model his whole plan. This is the thing we wiſh; and then, let him turn on what ſide he will, I ſhall be able to follow him; which I could not do at preſent, unleſs I wiſh to abandon all Sileſia.

Adieu, my dear friend. Make all your arrangements, let me have a quick anſwer, and I on my part will in like manner aid you, with the utmoſt vigilance.

I embrace you.

FREDERIC.

LET-

LETTER XII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Elſchnig, April 9, 1759.

CAPTAIN Wendeſſen has ſent me your majeſty's orders, relative to the expedition of Hoff.

Theſe orders, ſire, ſhall be followed.

As however there are two rivers to paſs, that is to ſay the Oppa and the Mora; and as, while we throw bridges over them, bodies of the enemy will infallibly take poſt on the other ſide, to diſpute our paſſage; your majeſty will do me the favour to remember that, there being ſo many impediments to the paſſage of the Oppa, for the reaſons alleged in my preceding letter, it will be almoſt an impoſſibility to penetrate as far as Hoff; which, however, is the thing eſſential.

Should theſe impediments occaſion the enterprize to fail, and ſhould the corps be obliged to retreat, very diſagreeable conſequences may reſult, and ſuch as may affect the whole campaign.

Bread for nine days, and forage for three, may be taken.

But, as the proviſions are conſumed from Auſtria to Hoff, and as there are few beaſts of burthen in this country, it will be afterward

difficult to procure the neceſſary forage for the corps.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER XIII.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, April 10, 1759.

I SEND you ſixteen cannon, eighteen pontons, four battalions, and four regiments of cavalry; which will all be at Neiſs on the 13th, and will join you on the 15th, at the lateſt.

I have ſent orders to Treſkow, to ſupply you with ſix howitzers; and, if you wiſh to have them, with ſome mortars.

I recollect with you the obſtacles which you will have to encounter; but chance will determine on the good or ill fortune of the enterprize, and I am forced from circumſtances to yield to many things to which, in different times, I ſhould have great repugnance.

The attempt muſt be made. Should it ſucceed only in part, it will ſtill be an advantage to have deranged the plans of the enemy; and, ſhould it be entirely ſucceſsful, it will be admirable.

I form no hopes, and peaceably wait for chance

to decide the affair, well convinced you will neglect nothing, and that, ſhould it be unſucceſsful, it will not be your fault. Grand and Bülow go with this corps. You will take care to call in the regiments of Bornſtædt and of Moſel.

I muſt repeat that, ſhould you be fortunate, when the expedition is ended I ſhall immediately ſend for the cavalry, the four battalions of Bülow, and the ſix cannon; becauſe I then propoſe to make a ſimilar attempt on Nachod, and Braunau, that I may free the whole frontiers of Sileſia of corps ſo well ſtationed to make attempts; ſo that, ſhould the whole ſucceed, I may then undoubtedly turn, with my army, either to face the Ruſſians or march to meet Leopoldus *. You will thus comprehend the neceſſity I am under of acting with riſk; and that otherwiſe I muſt ſink, and be ruined, before the campaign will be half over.

Adieu, my dear friend. I wiſh you all proſperity, and am wholly yours,

FREDERIC.

P. S. Daun means to act at the beginning of May, and we ſtill have twenty days; if we employ this time well, we ſhall ſweep the whole frontiers.

* Marſhal Daun. T.

LETTER XIV.

From General Fouquet.

Elſchnig, April 11, 1759.

SO be it, ſire, ſince it is your will. Fear not but we will undertake with courage, without even hoping to ſucceed.

Your majeſty at firſt intended to have ſent me ſeven battalions, afterward five, and now only four. Our infantry certainly will not be too numerous.

The following is an abridgment of my plan—

To leave a battalion, with a ſquadron of the Seidlitz huſſars, at Neuſtadt, where I have ſome flour and forage; and another, with a ſimilar ſquadron, at Leobſchütz, where I intend, in caſe of need, to convoy oats ſufficient for three days conſumption for the whole corps.

Lieutenant-general Seidlitz, with his cavalry, two or three battalions, and two ſquadrons of huſſars, will conduct the enterprize from Troppau.

The van-guard will be committed to lieutenant-general Treſkow, and will conſiſt of ſix battalions, ſix ſquadrons of the Werner huſſars, and ſix ſquadrons of the Bayreuth dragoons.

I ſhall

I ſhall head the remainder of the corps, and march under the auſpices of fortune.

The expedition over, we ſhall be as ſpeedy in our return as in our attack.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER XV.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, Landſhut, April 12, 1759.

I HAVE ſent you all I was able to ſend. You will have two battalions from Neiſs, two from Bornſtædt, and the four which I have ſent. My detachment of Glatz has weakened me ſo much that I cannot, with prudence, ſend you more. I have a large body here to face; and, in order to deceive the enemy, I have advanced thus far with all my men, where I ſhall tranquilly wait for news from you. Should it be good, as I wiſh and hope, I may afterward, with your aid, clear this frontier: but, ſhould it ſucceed only in part, I ſhall be obliged to take my meaſures accordingly.

Prince Ferdinand continues to make a progreſs on his ſide. Should therefore every thing proſper, we ſhall have our arms at liberty, for

the opening of the campaign, when affairs will become more difficult, and more ſerious.

Adieu, my dear general. I embrace you with all my heart, and wiſh you every felicity; not without a hope of ſoon hearing good news from you.

FREDERIC.

LETTER XVI.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Elſchnig, April 15, 1759.

I HAVE this evening aſſembled the corps of this country, intending to begin my march to-morrow, the 16th, on the expedition which it has pleaſed your majeſty to commit to me. Not having any howitzers, I have ſent to Neiſs for two fifty-pound mortars.

The Auſtrians have paſſed the river, with ſome battalions, and have occupied Bleiſchwitz, Peterwitz, and various other villages, on the other ſide of the Oppa.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LET-

LETTER XVII.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, Landſhut, April 16, 1759.

OUR enemies do not in the leaſt expect what is ſoon to happen. I inſpire them with every fear I am able to inſpire.

The regiments which marched toward upper Sileſia have returned to Kœnigſgrætz; in a word, I ſecond you with all my power.

My brother Henry ſhould this day enter Bohemia to commit ravages there. I hold the main army in ſuſpenſe; and I flatter myſelf that your talents, added to the ſecurity of the foe, will be productive of the moſt ſplendid ſucceſs.

Adieu, my dear friend.

FREDERIC.

LETTER XVIII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Troppau, April 17, 1759.

THE whole corps has this day paſſed the Oppa, at Kreutzendorf and at Dirſchkowitz, and

and the cavalry has endeavoured to block up Troppau.

Companies of ulans and pandours, that occaſionally made their appearance, have not offered any reſiſtance.

The garriſon of Troppau, compoſed of three battalions of Hungarian infantry and pandours, fled toward Grætz two hours before we arrived, not having heard the intelligence ſooner.

The cavalry of our van-guard came up with it; but, as the infantry was not able to follow ſoon enough, only two captains, two lieutenants, and two hundred and eleven ſoldiers, have been made priſoners. Many have been killed, without any loſs on our part.

The corps will to-morrow continue its march, and we ſhall uſe our utmoſt efforts to render ourſelves maſters of the magazine.

Lieutenant-general Seidlitz is to remain here, with the cavalry.

The enemy, having retired on all ſides, will, it may be preſumed, take poſt on the heights beyond the Mora; where to attack him will be impoſſible, as your majeſty knows.

Should that happen, I ſhall be obliged to return for want of proviſions; for we found no magazine here, and the corps has forage only for three days.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER XIX.

From the King.

Landſhut, April 20, 1759.

I RECEIVED your account, dated the 17th of this month, and was highly pleaſed to learn that your expedition has thus far been ſucceſsful. I am only vexed that you have not yet found any magazine.

I am however certain there are conſiderable ſtores at Jægerndorf; for this place has kept a neutrality. Theſe you may take and ſend to Neiſs, that you may at leaſt profit by ſomething, if more ſhould not be permitted you.

Could you but drive the enemy among the mountains, you might now and then find opportunities to take priſoners.

I here incloſe a ſhort extract of the favourable expedition of my brother Henry, into Bohemia.

I am your affectionate king.

FREDERIC.

P. S. Should it pleaſe Heaven to make your opponents guilty of ſome miſtakes, by theſe perhaps you may profit.

A brief

A brief Narrative of the Expedition of Prince Henry of Pruſſia into Bohemia.

From Linay, April 17, 1759.

ON the 15th, the prince arrived at the camp of Hellendorf. The heights on the back of Peterſwald were occupied by a thouſand pandours, and Hungarian infantry, who were poſted behind a conſiderable abatis.

After they had been repulſed by the free battalions, a part of our van-guard arrived, on the ſame evening, at Auſſig, and the remainder at Tœplitz; and the flour and forage there collected, which the enemy had abandoned, were deſtroyed.

On the 16th, the Pruſſians marched to Lipay, and ſeized on the magazines of Lowoſitz and Leutmeritz, where they found much flour. They burnt all the boats on the Elbe, and the corps puſhed forward, to ſeize on the ſtores which the enemy had left at Budyn.

General Hülſen, according to a previous plan, marched on the 15th for Baſberg. The enemy was turned by our cavalry, which paſſed through Breſnitz. The two Auſtrian regiments of Andlau and Kœnigſek wiſhed to maintain their poſts; but lieutenant-colonel Belling, and the regiments of the corps, fell upon the pandours; and general Renard, fifty officers, and two thouſand

ſand men were made priſoners. Two ſtandards were taken, two pair of colours, and three cannon. The whole of our killed and wounded amounted to ſixty-ſix men. The enemy beſide left two hundred dead on the place.

Major-general Aſcherſleben ſeized on the magazine of Saatz; ſo that, ſumming up the whole of what we have taken, in forage and flour, we may from this form a conſiderable magazine.

We have this moment learnt that a large magazine of oats has been found at Libochowitz, where fourteen priſoners have been made, of the regiment of Schmertzing.

We have burnt all the bridges over the Eger, and deſtroyed all the magazines on the banks of that river. We have this inſtant been informed that a thouſand tons of flour have been found at Worwizſchan.

LETTER XX.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Kunzendorf, April 18, 1759.

TO continue my narrative of yeſterday, I muſt inform your majeſty that the corps this day arrived,

arrived, without impediment, at Hartau, near the Mora, where the bridge was broken down.

The enemy, as I had ſuppoſed, had taken poſt on the heights beyond the river, between Hertzogſwalde and Heidenpiltſch.

Having paſſed the Mora, to reconnoitre the ſituation of the Auſtrians, I found them ranged in two lines, between which a third projected. The cavalry covered the wings.

I examined whether they might not be taken in flank, on the road of Bautſch; but neither could this project be executed, becauſe of the heights and ravines which interſect the country.

According to the report of the deſerters, general de Ville in perſon defends the paſſage of Bautſch with a body of men; a third corps is poſted in the woods, on our right, near Spakendorf; and the bridges are broken down, and abatis thrown up.

Unable to make any attempt here, and having forage only for two days, I ſhall to-morrow begin my retreat.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LET-

LETTER XXI.

From the King.

Landſhut, April 20, 1759.

YOUR account of the 18th is in like manner ſatisfactory. You informed me you were not able to drive the enemy further than the banks of the Mora. Perhaps he will be daring enough to follow you, when you begin your march; in which caſe you may find ſome opportunity to play him a trick, ſuch as may be equal to every thing we wiſh.

I am your very affectionate king.

FREDERIC.

P. S. All things cannot ſucceed as we could deſire, my friend. Fortune however muſt be attacked. She is ſometimes favourable when we expect it the leaſt; and at others the fantaſtical huſſy leaves us in the lurch, after enticing us by her coquettiſh antics.

LETTER XXII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Troppau, April 20, 1759.

IT being impoſſible for me to attack the Auſtrians, in their poſt beyond the Mora, as I

have had the honour to inform your majeſty, I yeſterday with my corps retreated to this place. The Auſtrians began their march at the ſame time that I began mine. I ſaw them proceed, in two columns, toward Hoff; there, no doubt, with an intention better to cover their magazine.

According to the account of the deſerters, general Marſchal arrived at their camp the day before yeſterday, in the afternoon, and took the command of the corps.

The four regiments of cavalry, the four battalions of Münchow and Lindſtædt, and in like manner the eight pontons and the half of the heavy artillery, which it pleaſed your majeſty to ſend me, left this place yeſterday, under the command of lieutenant-general Seidlitz, to repair to your majeſty's army. To-day they will arrive at Leobſchütz, and to-morrow at Zültz.

I ſuffer my men to reſt here to-day, but I ſhall be obliged to continue my march to-morrow, for want of proviſions.

The remainder of the heavy artillery, which appertains to your majeſty's army, I will ſend to-morrow to lieutenant-general Seidlitz.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LET-

LETTER XXIII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Leobſchütz, April 21, 1759.

ON my arrival here, I received your majeſty's letter, dated yeſterday.

I congratulate you, ſire, on the excellent plan which prince Henry has accompliſhed, in Bohemia; and am mortified that I could not find the means to execute the principal project, and ruin ſome magazines.

On my march from Leobſchütz to Troppau, I detached a party of three hundred men to Jægerndorf, where they found no magazine; and only could deſtroy and ruin the cauſeways, and palliſadoes; this has in like manner been done at Troppau.

At the latter place I found only forty tons of flour, of which bread was immediately made.

While the corps under prince Henry had the good fortune to take ſeveral magazines, we have been obliged to retreat, for want of proviſions. Could we have remedied this defect, we ſhould ſtill have been on the banks of the Mora.

We had not a grain of forage left, when we arrived at Leobſchütz.

The whole amount of our priſoners is two captains, three lieutenants, and two hundred and ſixty-one private men. Our loſs is only two men killed, and ten wounded.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER XXIV.

From the King.

Landſhut, April 22, 1759.

IT is neceſſary, my dear general, to inform you what is our preſent ſituation.

My brother Henry has driven all the enemies he could meet with before him, and has taken the principal magazines of the Auſtrians; &c.

This has ſo much deranged the plans of the pope-bleſſed general* that he has detached Harſch, with ſixteen battalions, toward Leutmeritz.

My brother at preſent is on his march, to come up with the troops of the circles, toward Bamberg; and, though my poſition will not al-

* In the month of January, 1759, general count Daun received, from pope Clement XIII. a conſecrated cap and ſword. This is the reaſon why the epithets pope-bleſſed, the man with the papal toka, and the ſanctified animal (*créature bénite*) are ſo often beſtowed upon him, by the king, in his letters.

low

low me to do much, yet, all things conſidered, I intend to make an excurſion, and drive the Auſtrians from Nachod and Braunau.

Let me beg you to tell me what is your opinion; for, ſhould you think with me, you muſt ſecond my enterpriſe, in which I can principally employ none but you.

Send me a quick anſwer. Adieu, my dear general.

FREDERIC.

LETTER XXV.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Leobſchütz, April 23, 1759.

THE gracious letter of your majeſty, dated the 22d inſtant, informs me of your intention to drive the Auſtrians from the vicinity of Nachod and Braunau, and commands me to tell you my opinion.

According to intelligence given by lieutenant-colonel D'O, the Auſtrians muſt have about twelve thouſand men, in the environs of Braunau.

I therefore think that, could your majeſty march from Landſhut for Friedland and Brau-

nau, by making the roads which lead from Trautenau, Starckſtadt, and Politz, protect your flanks, it would be poſſible to take this corps, ſhould I at the ſame time march toward Braunau, through Wunſchelburg, to attack it on that ſide; for the only roads the enemy can take will be thoſe which go from Wernerſdorf, and Ditterſbach, to Starckſtadt; and from Weckerſdorf to Politz.

This done, your majeſty may, if you pleaſe, proceed through Politz, or Starckſtadt, toward Nachod; while I march through Reinerts and Levin; or I may retreat, according to circumſtances, and as your majeſty ſhall think proper.

This will all depend on the orders your majeſty ſhall iſſue; and we have only to regulate the days of march, to advance at the ſame time on both ſides, and attack the corps of Braunau.

According to the advice I have received, which all the deſerters have confirmed, the corps of De Ville conſiſts of thirty-ſeven battalions, ſix regiments of dragoons, one of huſſars, three thouſand pandours, and two pulks of ulans, amounting to thirty thouſand men.

This whole corps, the day before yeſterday, was ſtill in face of Hoff, at their camp near Maywalde. Since yeſterday afternoon their light troops and dragoons have all puſhed forward,

ward, burrowed into the woods that lie between here and Jægerndorf, and have proceeded as far as Zuckmantel.

I return the regiments of Munchow and Landſtædt to your majeſty; that of Moſel is marched back to Neiſs; ſo that, with the garriſon of Neuſtadt, I now have ſeventeen battalions, and the free battalion of Lüderitz.

Should your majeſty command me to march, I muſt abandon theſe parts; leaving only two battalions, with a ſquadron of huſſars, at Patſchkau. On my march to Wunſchelburg, I may ſtation three battalions at Schwedelſdorf, or Reinerts, to occupy that paſs. With the twelve remaining battalions, I may, in five days march, arrive at Wunſchelburg. Should the roads be bad, ſix will be neceſſary, and two days reſt, which will amount to eight.

Diſpoſe, ſire, of your moſt humble, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

P. S. Of the ten new cannon, which your majeſty intended for me, I have received only ſix; and my letters from Breſlau inform me that the other four have been ſent to your majeſty.

LETTER XXVI.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, Landſhut, April 25, 1759.

I HAVE received your anſwer; but affairs have changed ſince I wrote to you; for Beck, who was at Bergitz and Braunau, has marched in haſte with his corps toward Prague; ſo that there are very few troops in this vicinity.

Should we however turn Braunau, Politz, and Nachod, we ſhall oblige Laudohn to make great marches, and perhaps ſhall force him to retreat; after which, we may if we pleaſe return. If you bring me three battalions, two of Moſel and one more, theſe will be ſufficient.

I have four battalions at Franckenſtein, and four at Wartha, Arnheim and Glatz; theſe, with Le Noble, are all that are neceſſary.

The regiment of Wurtemberg dragoons, and five ſquadrons of Nœhring, may join you. It will at preſent be impoſſible to march on the roads of Gerſdorf, and Tannhauſen; but they will be in better order, in ſeven or eight days.

I am of opinion that, ſhould you then ſend two battalions againſt Braunau, while we ſhall come through St. John, theſe will be ſufficient

to

to repulſe a ſwarm of pandours, and that you may march immediately for Nachod. Thoſe of Braunau may then turn the poſt of Bergitz, and proceed as far as Politz; by which we ſhall procure priſoners, and draw the enemy's attention on this ſide, while my brother may beat the army of the empire.

Magazines, of every kind have been taken and deſtroyed, in Bohemia, ſufficient to ſupply an army of fifty thouſand men ſeven months.

Treſkow may take the command, during your abſence; and, the expedition over, we will remain tranquil, and wait for events.

Adieu, my dear general.

FREDERIC.

P. S. Your artillery ought to conſiſt of thirty twelve pounders, and two howitzers; and there are ten more howitzers at Glatz. Let ſome of theſe be tranſported to Neiſs, that they may be ready for you, ſhould you have occaſion for them.

LETTER XXVII.

From General Fouquet,

SIRE, Leuber, April 28, 1759.

THE whole corps of general de Ville having yeſterday advanced beyond Bladen, I found it impoſſible for me to ſecure the neceſſary convoys from Coſel, and was obliged to repaſs the Hotzenplotz, and to take poſt with my corps in the vicinage of Neuſtadt, that I might continue to obſerve the motions of the enemy; eſpecially after having detached four regiments of horſe, and two of foot, to your majeſty's army, the regiment of Moſel to Neiſs, and the free battalion of Lüderitz to Polniſchwetta.

The corps of De Ville has hitherto conſiſted of thirty-ſeven battalions; but, according to the eport of ſome deſerters, he has been reinforced by ſix battalions from the garriſon of Ollmutz. This however is what I cannot certainly affirm.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LET-

LETTER XXVIII.

From the King.

MY DEAR GENERAL, April 25, 1759.

I LEARN, from yours of the 25th, that the corps of De Ville is advanced; you have therefore acted very properly in retiring to Neuſtadt. According to all appearances, we ſhall find ſomething to do on that ſide. I hold it my duty at leaſt to attempt whatever is poſſible; and, though we cannot foreſee how far we may be ſucceſsful, we muſt at leaſt try our fortune.

I will therefore tell you what is my purpoſe.

Beſide the four battalions which are with you, I will join you with ſix more battalions, to which ſhall further be added the two battalions of Neiſs. We will afterward fall on theſe Auſtrians, in the hope of being ſucceſsful, and, at leaſt, drive them back to their mountains.

On the 29th of this month, theſe forces may all be aſſembled at Neiſs; and I will join you on the 30th. I believe you have ſome pontons remaining; you have therefore only to make your arrangements, with reſpect to the roads, and to know in what manner, and in how many columns, we may march immediately to Bladen, where the enemy is poſted. You have, no doubt,

ſome

ſome ſmall map of this ground, which you ſo long have occupied.

The plan I propoſed here to have executed could not have been very ſucceſsful; for which reaſon we muſt make an attempt on your ſide.

I am your affectionate king.

FREDERIC.

LETTER XXIX.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Leuber, April 26, 1759.

THE letter of your majeſty, dated the 25th inſtant, has been delivered into my own hands; and I wait the final commands of your majeſty, on this ſubject.

We yeſterday paſſed the Hotzenplotz, without meeting any diſturbance from the Auſtrian parties; but about five in the evening, major Roſenbuſch, having under his command two ſquadrons of huſſars, was attacked in the village of Deutſch-Raſſelwitz, ſituated on the banks of the Hotzenplotz, which I had paſſed, by a corps of eight hundred ulans, who put him to the rout.

We immediately ſent a ſuccour of two other ſquadrons, that entirely repulſed this detachment

of the enemy, and once more ſeized on Deutſch-Raſſelwitz. Of the two firſt ſquadrons however are miſſing major Roſenbuſch, captain Pannewitz, lieutenant Winter, and eighty-ſix huſſars, who probably are made priſoners.

The corps of general de Ville is poſted, according to the intelligence of to-day, beyond Bladen; and his light troops extend from this place to Meydelberg, along the mountains.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER XXX.

From the King.

MY DEAR GENERAL, Landſhut, April 26, 1759.

I ANSWER your letter of the 26th inſtant, and inform you that you ought at preſent to give every demonſtration of intending to retreat ſtill further. By this means we ſhall have leiſure to deceive the enemy more certainly; and, if poſſible, to beat him in the manner we could wiſh.

To-morrow at noon I ſhall be at Neiſs; you may therefore inform me, after my arrival, of all that paſſes.

I am your affectionate king.

FREDERIC.

P. S. I muſt, coſt what it will, diſencumber myſelf of one corps of the enemy. The operations of my brother have put Daun on the defenſive: I therefore profit by the moment to fall on De Ville. Could we but come up with him, before he could gain information, his loſs muſt be ſevere.

Adieu, my dear general. To-morrow at noon I ſhall be at Neiſs.

LETTER XXXI.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Leuber, April 27, 1759.

THE corps under De Ville yeſterday advanced as far as the environs of Meydelberg, having ſent forward the light troops, beyond the mountains and woods which lie before Neuſtadt.

The care this general takes, to conceal his manœuvres, induces me to ſuppoſe his ſole intention is to cover his march, that he may glide behind the hills with his corps, and endeavour to ſeparate me, or cut off my communication with Neiſs, whence I draw my ſubſiſtence.

I believe this opinion to be the better founded becauſe no patroles have made their appearance on his right, in the plains toward Glogau.

The incertitude of his proceedings induces me to ſeek a convenient camp, for which I ſhall march to-morrow, and which will be ſomewhere near Heydau and Deutſch-Kamnitz, a mile from Neiſs.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

P. S. While concluding my letter I received that from your majeſty, ſent by captain Wendeſſen. I have no pontons here, becauſe I returned them, with the cannon, under the care of lieutenant-general Seidlitz.

LETTER XXXII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Deutſch-Kamnitz, April 28, 1759.

THE corps, having yeſterday arrived here, took poſſeſſion of its camp, between this place and Heydau.

The infantry was on the ground when the rear-guard, under the command of general Werner, was attacked by four regiments of dragoons, ulans, and huſſars; but they were immediately repulſed, and purſued, by Ditterſdorf, without any loſs being ſuffered on our part.

I yeſterday got poſſeſſion of a letter of general

de

de Ville, dated at Liebenthal, behind Meydelberg.

As he has to-day detached much of his cavalry to follow us, I presume he means himself to continue advancing.

So much the better. I hope he will dance the cotillon; two or three steps forward, and five or six back.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER XXXIII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Deutsch-Kamnitz, April 29, 1759.

ACCORDING to your majesty's orders, I have formed the plan I here send for the march of the army, in three columns. I have no knowledge of the roads, except of that which I have taken in my last march.

I have made use of the map which your majesty caused to be drawn of these environs, and which you no doubt have at Neiss.

The patroles, who advanced as far as Schnellendorf, did not meet with any foe; for which reason I suppose general de Ville is still in his camp, near Meydelberg.

I am

I am in expectation of intelligence to-day, and ſhall immediately make my report to your majeſty.

Under the pretence of ſpeaking to the officers of huſſars, who are made priſoners, I have ſent a trumpet to the enemy near Neuſtadt; when the meſſenger ſhall have returned, we ſhall be informed of what he has diſcovered, and of what is paſſing.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER XXXIV.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Deutſch-Kamnitz, April 29, 1759.

ACCORDING to the report of the patroles, and other intelligence, general de Ville has encamped on the other ſide of Neuſtadt. His camp is ſituated near Capellenberg, and he has ſeized on the villages of Lindewieſe, Greyſau, and Dittmanſdorf, between here and Neuſtadt. His horſe patrole is poſted in the foreſt of Opperſdorf, oppoſite to ours.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER XXXV.

From the King.

MY DEAR GENERAL, Neiſs, 29, One o'clock mid-day.

I AM this moment arrived, and have received three of your letters. I am entirely of your opinion that, ſhould M. de Ville but advance a little further, he will be obliged to take prodigious leaps.

My regiments are not yet all come up. I think however it will be neceſſary to march to-morrow, that the enemy may gain no information of what is paſſing.

I bring with me twelve battalions, and you have fifteen, which amount to twenty-ſeven. I likewiſe bring the artillery of Bülow, twelve more of theſe great lords*, and eight regiments of horſe. I muſt of neceſſity direct my march toward you and Neuſtadt, unleſs the enemy ſhould be ſo good as to approach nearer, of which I doubt.

We are therefore to enquire how we may turn the camp of Meydelberg, which I believe muſt be effected through Telzſtein.

All our grenadiers, huſſars, and dragoons, will form the vanguard.

* Great guns. T.

have

I have this moment received your laſt letter. De Ville is mad, and we will certainly beat him the day after to-morrow. This being ſo, we may advance as near as poſſible to the enemy.

N. B. Are pontons neceſſary to paſs the Hotzenplotz? I have ſome here, but ſhall leave them, if they are unneceſſary. Inform me likewiſe whether you have bridges for the columns. If not, I will bring ſome with me. Be kind enough to ſend me an anſwer immediately.

Adieu, my dear friend.

FREDERIC.

LETTER XXXVI.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Deutſch-Kamnitz, April 29, 1759.

I HAVE juſt received your majeſty's letter at our advanced poſts, where, according to what I can judge, by the marching and countermarching of the Hungarian and light troops of the enemy, they are in poſſeſſion of moſt of the villages lying between this and Neuſtadt.

I have ſeen about two thouſand men of theſe mixed troops, that came from Dittmanſdorf, croſſed the woods, and marched toward Neuwalde.

Your majeſty informs me you will to-morrow direct your march for Neuſtadt; according to which, ſire, I will ſend the grenadiers, huſſars, and dragoons forward, as far as Lindewieſe: the main army ſhall follow.

I wait your majeſty's commands, ſent by lieutenant Treſkow, to know at what hour it is your pleaſure I ſhould march; that I may leave the road unencumbered and free for you.

Permit me, ſire, to inform you of my ſentiments. If we both take the ſame road, we ſhall repulſe the corps under De Ville, without doing him much or any harm; whereas, if we march in three bodies, we ſhall embarraſs him, and profit by the diſorder and confuſion into which we ſhall throw his forces.

To turn Meydelberg and Fullſtein, ſhould they be occupied by a body of the enemy, we muſt paſs near Hotzenplotz through Carſberg, Trenkau, Matzdorf, Rauſen, and Roben. This will be proper for the corps, or the column, deſtined to turn the Auſtrians; but we cannot prevent them from retreating, through Olberſdorf and Jægerndorf, without being able perhaps to do them the leaſt injury; whereas, ſhould a corps paſs on the right of Neuſtadt, by Langenbruch, another through Neuſtadt, and a third through Ditterſdorf, they will make head againſt the

the two firſt beyond the hills, and will give time for the third to march to the above-mentioned places.

We have no need of pontons to paſs the Hotzenplotz. I have two bridges; if your majeſty will bring two more, they will be ſufficient.

I have juſt been told that the Auſtrians who entered at Neuwalde have proceeded as far as Langendorf, and have directed their march toward Ziegenhals.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER XXXVII.

From the King.

Neiſs, ſeven in the evening.

I HAVE not yet received an anſwer to my letter. I ſhall march to-morrow with my whole corps, and come up with you, my dear general, at half paſt five. Let no regiment move, nor give the leaſt notice of my preſence. I will chooſe my camp to conceal myſelf from the enemy; and we will draw up a plan of the manner in which we are to act on the firſt of May.

My opinion is that we ought to march for

Leſſen, with the whole corps; in order to turn the enemy, and take him in flank. This road you ought to know by rote, and we can conſequently make our arrangements.

Adieu, my dear friend.

Your aid de camp is this moment arrived, and brought me your letter. It is neceſſary, my dear general, that I ſhould ſpeak to you, and that we ſhould agree on our plan before we put ourſelves in motion. If De Ville be certainly at Neuſtadt with his whole corps, it would be raſhneſs to divide our troops in this manner to diſlodge him; and, in ſuch a caſe, we muſt conform to rule. But, ſhould the corps of Neuſtadt be only his vanguard, your propoſition then is excellent.

FREDERIC.

On the 30th of April, in the morning, his majeſty marched with his whole corps to Opperſdorf, where he fixed his general quarters. His intention was to attack general De Ville, and he had made his diſpoſitions accordingly; but, as intelligence was received that the enemy had changed his poſition, and had taken poſt on the heights of Zuckmantel, where it

it was impoſſible to attack him with the whole corps, a detachment was formed of all the huſſars, fifteen ſquadrons of dragoons, five battalions of grenadiers, and a free battalion.

On the firſt of May his majeſty began his march, with this corps, toward Zuckmantel, and attacked the corps of general De Ville in perſon; from whom he took ſix officers, and a hundred and ſixty-ſix croats, killed a great number of men, and drove the enemy as far as Hermſtædt.

On the ſecond, the king with his corps decamped, to return to Landſhut.

General Fouquet remained near Deutſch-Kamnitz, with his corps, till the 24th. He afterward marched toward Frankenſtein; and, on the 6th of July, after the departure of the king, he entered the camp of Landſhut.

LETTER XXXVIII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Deutſch-Kamnitz, May 6, 1759.

THE corps under general De Ville continues in the ſame poſition, near Hermſtædt.

He has detached general Renard, with the croats and ulans, to the mountains and foreſts, beyond Neuſtadt; having taken poſt with the remainder of the corps toward Johanniſthal and Hennerſdorf.

Yeſterday morning, general Werner propoſed an attempt to be made on this corps, by endeavouring to turn it through Arnoldſdorf, and Johanniſthal. I deſired him to inform himſelf of the true ſtrength of the ſaid corps, and of the ſituation of its advanced poſts, and to make his report to me, after which we would form our plan accordingly; and ſaid that I, in the mean time, would order an engineer to repair the road we muſt take, on our march to the attack.

I ſent the engineer to him this morning, with the plan and regulations, intending to put it in execution to-night.

But all I have done is ineffectual. General Werner, without waiting for orders, or plan, marched yeſterday evening, at eleven o'clock, with all the huſſars and three battalions of grenadiers. I did not heſitate a moment to put him under arreſt, and I entreat your majeſty will command a council of war to be held; were it only that we are unable to act without this brave man; eſpecially as there is no officer of huſſars here capable of acting as his ſubſtitute, and he having

having been in part ſucceſsful; for he has taken lieutenant Kochzizki, aid de camp to general Renard, priſoner, with twenty-five ulans, raitzes, and croats, all wounded; has put as many more to the ſword; and has brought off ſome forty horſes. I leave it to your majeſty to determine on his merits. He had three huſſars killed, and five or ſix wounded.

I have in the mean time taken proper precautions, that he ſhould no more diſpoſe of the huſſars in a body, nor of the grenadiers according to his fancy.

The number of Auſtrian deſerters is increaſed to a hundred and twenty-three.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER XXXIX.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Deutſch-Kamnitz, May 16, 1759.

I CANNOT learn in what part of the hills the corps under general Jahnus is ſtationed, for it has not hitherto been diſcovered.

The corps under De Ville ſtill keeps the ſame poſt, and neither Auſtrians nor Pruſſians are in motion.

In fine, war will take that route which your

majeſty and fate ſhall preſcribe; and I could wiſh, ſire, you could in like manner rid yourſelf of your vile colic.

Let me entreat your majeſty to take a glaſs of wine, ſome Provençal oil, a piece of bread toaſted, and a glaſs of water, and you will be relieved in an hour.

I have this moment heard a rumour that prince Henry has gained a victory over the army of the Empire, near D'Aſch and Oelſnitz, in the vicinity of Hoff.

I ſhall be delighted to hear the report confirmed, that I may communicate the intelligence to my neighbours.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER XL.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Franckenſtein, June 1, 1759.

THE conduct you obſerve, very different from the opening of your other campaigns, in which you have always been more alert than the Auſtrians, cannot but embarraſs general Daun.

This has occaſioned him to order his corps, and even

even his whole army, to advance on the Auſtrian frontiers, to diſpute the paſſage with you.

Your inactivity muſt certainly diſconcert him; and he will probably endeavour, by making diverſions, to induce you to ſend out detachments; or he will wait the approach of the Ruſſians.

We have no news.

General Treſkow informs me that De Ville keeps the poſt from which he was driven by your majeſty; having his quarters at Zuckmantel, and ſending his patroles almoſt as far as Neiſs.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER XLI.

From the King.

June 3, 1759.

ACCORDING to the news I receive, my dear friend, and from what I can conjecture of the plan of my enemies, it ſhould ſeem they mean to ſet me at defiance.

This is equally confirmed by what D'O has written to me to-day, which he has no doubt communicated to you; ſo that I have ſent for Seidlitz, Platen, and Sydow, to come to me.

For

For your part, ſhould Daun, as is apparent, pay me a viſit; and ſhould Beck, and perhaps Laudohn, attempt to penetrate through Friedland, I abandon them to you. In this caſe you muſt call in Ramin, and ſend for Bülow to join you, that you may take theſe gentry in flank, in rear, and in every kind of way, to drive them into Bohemia. This effected, De Ville, Harſch, and Jahnus will no more rear their creſt, but will bury themſelves among the mountains, without ſtriking a blow.

I begin to perſuade myſelf affairs will take this turn. The Ruſſians are in motion, and it is no longer time to temporize. Daun muſt be the main ſpring of the whole machine; therefore, in order to take Sileſia, every thing demonſtrates that ſome riſk muſt be run.

De Ville is obliged to detach four regiments for Bohemia; a certain ſign that they mean to ſtrike the great blow on that ſide. With all my heart: I welcome the omen. As ſoon as I ſhall gain any intelligence, I will communicate it to you; and will at the ſame time direct you how to act, as I ſhall ſuppoſe for the beſt, in ſuch a caſe.

The detachment of Marck-Liſſa is retreated for Bohemia; it only conſiſted of ſix hundred men.

My

My brother Henry is now at Zwickau. Seckendorf, with three battalions, has beaten ſix Auſtrian battalions, four hundred croats, and nine hundred huſſars. Kleiſt has attacked a corps, that purſued the rear-guard of my brother, near Hoff; and has taken two cannon, and a hundred priſoners, from the enemy.

Their mob is not invincible, provided they be not attacked by poltroons, and have not ſix hundred pieces of artillery in battery.

Adieu, my dear general.

FREDERIC.

LETTER XLII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Frankenſtein, June 3, 1759.

GENERAL De Ville occupies a camp near Kalkau, in the vicinity of Weydenau, with a corps compoſed of fifteen battalions, and four regiments of Saxon dragoons, excluſive of the croats, the ulans, and the huſſars. His patroles advance as far as Patſchkau and Ottmachau; and it is ſaid he is on the point of encamping beyond Patſchkau. The magiſtrates of that town have received orders to deliver in a conſiderable

ſiderable quantity of bread and meat, for the corps under De Ville.

Various reports confirm the news that ſome of the regiments of this corps have marched toward Bohemia, through Altſtadt.

Some days ſince I viewed the poſition of general Ramin, near Wartha, which I found to be very good.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER XLIII.

From the King.

MY DEAR GENERAL, Reich-Hennerſdorf, June 4, 1759.

I RECEIVED your relation of the 3d of this month. You have as much force as general De Ville at preſent has, after the detachment which he muſt have made; you even ſurpaſs him in cavalry; for which reaſon you are very able to make head againſt him, ſhould he make any attempt.

This being ſo, he will not ſend his patroles too far from his camp.

I am, &c.

The comedy will ſoon begin here, according to

to all I can learn. Daun propoſes to force my poſt. Let him: he will find who he has to talk to. I have called in all the troops I have, and am in the beſt ſituation of which my affairs will admit.

I will ſend you timely notice of what relates to yourſelf. You muſt not ſtir at preſent; for the great affair is, poſitively to underſtand what are the intentions of the enemy.

FREDERIC.

LETTER XLIV.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Franckenſtein, June 4, 1759.

THE detachment which general De Ville has made conſiſts of the ſeven regiments of Molk-Wallis, Alt-Colloredo, Collowrath, Deutſchmeiſter, Anger, and Durlach, including the two companies of grenadiers appertaining to each regiment; as your majeſty muſt have ſeen, in the report of lieutenant-colonel D'O, which is confirmed by general Treſkow; with the addition of the two regiments of dragoons of Saxe-Gotha and of Modena.

General De Ville ſtill occupies his camp near Kalkau, with the remainder of his corps.

I have received your majeſty's orders, and now only wait to carry the whole into execution. Should general Ramin join me, does your majeſty wiſh that I ſhould leave the free battalion of Le Noble to cover the bridge of Wartha?

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER XLV

From the King.

Reich-Hennerſdorf, June 5, 1759.

I HAVE received your account of the 4th inſtant, and you may leave the free battalion of Le Noble at Wartha; but it is neceſſary for him to be very alert, during the abſence of the other battalions. In caſe he ſhould find himſelf too much preſſed, that is to ſay too near the enemy, he may at any time throw himſelf into Glatz. With reſpect to your battalions, endeavour to make them extend, imperceptibly, ſomewhat before Reichenbach, were it only a brigade of infantry, that a corps may immediately be ready to join Bülow.

You may alſo ſend ſome artillery there, which would be ſo much gain. I believe the enemy will begin his operations in three or four days. You may alſo ſend the free battalion of Lüderitz directly to join Bülow, of which he may make good uſe, among theſe mountains; and I have ordered lieutenant-general Treſkow to ſend you the battalion of grenadiers of Rath.

On which I pray God to take you into his holy keeping.

P. S. It is at leaſt neceſſary four battalions, and the huſſars of Gerſdorf and of Lüderitz, ſhould join Bülow, to-morrow, in his poſt of Beerſdorf; and that you ſhould make your troops file off toward Reichenbach; as, for example, five battalions and the regiment of Bayreuth, that all may be ready to join Bülow, on the ſhorteſt notice.

Conceal their march from the enemy, and employ all according to your beſt abilities. The following is nearly what will happen.

When Daun ſhall put himſelf in motion, a heavy body will advance upon me. Of this I will take care. Another column will paſs by Friedland, to penetrate into this country; and Beck will march for Tannhauſen, to amuſe the corps that I have there. A body will penetrate into your country, to keep you at bay; De Ville

will

will paſs the Neiſſe, to ſtop you on that ſide; but all this will not embarraſs you much. March to Bülow; and, when you have joined him, then attack the column of the enemy, whether it be at Tannhauſen, Gotteſberg, or near Vallenburg.

A map of theſe countries ſhall be drawn this evening, and I will ſend it you immediately. Call in major Hauchwitz to you; Ramin may alſo take poſt at Silberberg, that he may be more near to Treſkow. In a word, we muſt not be outwitted, but confine ourſelves to the principal plan of the enemy, and endeavour to render it abortive. De Ville and all his troops will then take to flight without bidding.

My poor old friend, marſhal Kalkſtein, is juſt dead.

FREDERIC.

LETTER XLVI.

From the King.

Reich-Hennerſdorf, June 5, 1759.

BY the bearer I ſend you the plan in queſtion, of which I gave you notice in my letter of this morning, and the reception of which you will do well to acknowledge.

On

On which I pray God to take you into his holy keeping.

P. S. Aided by this plan, and your own excellent abilities, you will do whatever ſhall be requiſite, and act according to circumſtances. It is indifferent on which ſide you turn theſe * * *. The man with the papal toka moves neither hand nor foot.

The detachment of De Ville has not joined any of theſe corps which threaten us; I therefore cannot judge of its deſtination. The Ruſſians cannot be in the environs of Glogau ſooner than the 12th; ſo that it may very well happen our preſent ſituation may be more tedious than we expected. But no matter; let us continue our train, and chaſtiſe the firſt that ſhall preſent themſelves.

Farewel, my dear general.

FREDERIC.

LETTER XLVII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Franckenſtein, June 6, 1759.

THE orders which your majeſty yeſterday ſent, and the plan, arrived with ſufficient

ſpeed to be immediately put in execution. The free battalion of Lüderitz, with the ſix ſquadrons of Gerſdorf huſſars, marched laſt night; and this morning, at break of day, general Schenkendorf, accompanied by two battalions of the margrave Henry and two of Ramin, with the half of the heavy artillery, that is, five pieces of large twelve pounders and four howitzers, began their march to join general Bülow. Excluſive of theſe, five battalions, that is, a battalion of the Pritwitz volunteers, a battalion of the grenadiers of Carlowitz, a battalion of the Buddenbrock grenadiers, two battalions of Queiſt, and the regiment of Bayreuth dragoons, have marched to-day to Peterſwalde, where they are near the poſt of general Bülow.

General Ramin, with the two regiments of Kalkſtein and Manteufel, arrived to-day at Silberberg, and in the vicinity.

The free battalion of Le Noble has ſtayed, to cover the paſſage near Wartha.

With the four remaining battalions, that is, the battalion of Naumeiſter, the grenadier battalion of Unruh, two battalions of Fouquet, three regiments of horſe, and the huſſars of Werner, I wait here for the final orders of your majeſty.

The battalions of Naumeiſter and Unruh, with

with the huſſars of Werner, have occupied Gællenau, Stolzen, Kuntzendorf, and Camenz. I did not wiſh to diſgarniſh theſe villages, that I might conceal the march from general De Ville.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER XLVIII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Franckenſtein, June 6, 1759.

HAVING hitherto maintained a continual correſpondence with general-Bülow, I have ſent him the following queſtions.

1. How many troops does he require to maintain his poſt?

2. Should the enemy quit his poſt, and take the high road for Alten-Reuſſendorf and Hohen-Gierſdorf, could he attack him in flank?

To the firſt queſtion the general replied, that he only aſked four ſquadrons of huſſars and dragoons, and four battalions, to maintain his poſt; that more would be uſeleſs to him, for he could not ſtation them.

With reſpect to the ſecond, he thinks he could not detach troops toward Reuſſendorf and Dittmanſdorf, ſhould he at once be threatened

and attacked, in front, on the ſide of Tannhauſen, and Charlottenbrun.

Neither is there much to be done on that ſide; becauſe of the various defiles, and of the difficulty of paſſing through the village; a paſs which the enemy might eaſily diſpute, ſhould he occupy the heights which overlook the other ſide of this ſame village.

All he has ſaid is confirmed by an officer of engineers, whom I have ſent to reconnoitre the ground.

Not being able therefore to act with my corps near general Bülow, I have poſted myſelf with the thirteen remaining battalions, including the four of Ramin and the battalion of Rath grenadiers, on the heights before Hohen-Gierſdorf, where I have free room for the neceſſary manœuvres, and where I can make uſe of the cavalry: in order that, ſhould the enemy endeavour to penetrate on the high road of Neu-Reuſſendorf, I might receive him in front, while general Bülow might diſturb him in flank as much as poſſible, till your majeſty could come up.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LET-

LETTER XLIX.

From the King.

Reich-Hennerſdorf, June 6, 1759.

I HAVE received your two reports of the 6th, and approve the chief of the meaſures which you have taken. Should the enemy make an effort, you muſt aſſemble all your troops; that is, the thirteen battalions which you have, and thoſe under general Bülow; becauſe, if united, you will certainly be able to fall upon one of the columns of the Auſtrians, and to haraſs it; but, if ſeparate, you can do nothing, and all you can undertake muſt be ineffectual.

The Ruſſians cannot enter Sileſia before the 12th, 13th, or 14th inſtant.

Daun wiſhes to act in the mean time; he has not hitherto made the leaſt motion, nor has ſo much as a patrole paſſed his limits. His right yeſterday continued at Jaromirz, and his left at Schurtz. I wait to hear of his firſt motion, to judge of what can be his true plan, and to inform you of the poſitive manœuvres you are to make. While he ſhall continue quiet, I cannot ſend you any preciſe orders.

We have only to wait with a little patience; and you will do well to ſpread a rumour that I am on my march, to join you, with a corps of infantry; and that we ſhall paſs the Neiſſe at Camenz, or at Patſchkau, or wherever you pleaſe, to attack De Ville in his camp at Kamnitz, while you go and take poſt toward Glatz, in order to alarm theſe gentry on all ſides.

You may likewiſe diſturb them on the ſide of Silberberg, as if there were a deſign to march for Neurode. Sometimes ſpread reports that you are obliged to march toward Breſlau, to oppoſe the Ruſſians, who make incurſions; and this in order to amuſe and deceive them, by every poſſible means.

We are on the eve of action: ſome five or ſix days will inform us what are the deſigns of the enemy; but, as ſoon as he ſhall make any attempt, for the love of God make no detachment, but act with all your forces united; by which I underſtand twenty-one battalions of infantry, the free battalion of Lüderitz, twenty-five ſquadrons of cuiraſſiers and dragoons, and ſixteen ſquadrons of huſſars.

You are partly acquainted with my ideas. It will be impoſſible to predict all that may happen; but, as ſoon as the enemy ſhall begin to manœuvre, which will further inform me what his

his intentions are, I ſhall be able to ſend you more preciſe inſtructions. Should the main army of the enemy take poſt oppoſite me, you will be very able to reſiſt a detachment; provided your corps ſhall continually keep nine days bread in advance. In caſe of neceſſity, the cavalry muſt forage.

Should the enemy only preſent a maſk on this ſide, and ſhould I perceive that his greateſt force ſhall poſt itſelf on the ſide of Friedland, I will immediately incline thither; not to diſpute the paſſage with him, but to cut him off from Bohemia. I ſhall thus oblige him either to come and attack me, to a diſadvantage, or to march into the plain, to join the corps of De Ville as ſoon as poſſible, that he may obtain bread.

In the firſt caſe, if you will march beſide him to a certain diſtance, you will always be able to take him in flank or in rear, when we ſhall come to action; and, in the ſecond, you muſt haraſs him, that when he leaves the mountains, on the ſide of Reichenbach, you may engage advantageouſly with his rear-guard.

You may further ſpoil the road from Silberberg to Neurode, by ſtrewing it with brambles, and rendering it impracticable for carriages; in order that, ſhould he wiſh to paſs with one

column on this ſide, it will become abſolutely impoſſible for him to drag his artillery, without which you very well know he will not march.

On which I pray God to take you into his holy keeping.

P. S. I have this moment received a letter from Bülow, by which I am informed that the corps of Beck is ready to march; and a huſſar is this inſtant arrived from Politz, who depoſes that the pandours, the huſſars, and ſome German infantry arrived the day before yeſterday near Politz. He adds that the Auſtrian officers ſpoke, yeſterday morning, with the peaſants of the vicinity of Politz; and promiſed them much money, if they would but ſhew them a hill, on which they wiſhed that night to reconnoitre our camp.

Another deſerter depoſes that the army was to march to-day; but I have yet received no intelligence of his march, otherwiſe I ſhould write to you. As ſoon as I can learn any thing concluſive, I will inform you of it. But we approach the cataſtrophe, and the affair muſt be over in twice twenty-four hours. In the mean time it is neceſſary to be alert, and make all neceſſary movements as quickly as poſſible.

LETTER L.

From the King.

Reich-Hennerſdorf, June 9, 1759.

YOU muſt have heard that the fourteen battalions of De Ville have marched from Seuftenberg to Jaromirz; and, in like manner, you muſt know that five battalions of pandours have left the corps of Beck, to join the grand army. Theſe circumſtances declare what the project is, which the man with the papal toka has formed. I perceive his forces all incline to the ſide of Trautenau; conſequently, he will here come and attack me, in my fort.

Should this be confirmed, the following is my chain of reaſoning: Firſt you muſt make every arrangement, that you may join Bülow, on the firſt ſignal, with all poſſible ſpeed.

I conclude therefore that, ſhould the whole force of the enemy incline this way, you muſt march with your corps from Friedland to Griſſau, and muſt ſupport my left; then, having well beaten the enemy, we ſhall only have to drive the reſt of thoſe gentry that incommode us, out of Sileſia.

On the firſt ſignal you muſt march to Tannhauſen; you muſt next detach the nine battalions

talions which are there for Griſſau immediately, and follow them as ſoon as you can.

But, ſhould it happen that a column of the enemy ſhould endeavour to penetrate through Friedland, I am ſtill of the ſame opinion, which I have before explained to you, in my preceding letter.

I here from precaution ſend you the route of the two columns, that you may employ them in caſe of need; ſuppoſing that Daun ſhould come here with his whole forces, and that you ſhould march to join me. Should this happen, you may encamp on the height of the Anna, behind Griſſau, with the abby in your front, your face toward Schœnberg, the village of Neune at the foot of your left, and Zieder at the foot of your right.

Such are the preparations, my friend, which you muſt make.

If, imperceptibly, you can further file off ſome troops on the ſide of Reichenbach, that your other motions may become more eaſy, it will be ſo much the better.

I ſhall write to you by the courier, and ſhall inform you of all the motions of the enemy which ſhall come to my knowledge; and, in proportion as the enemy ſhall act, ſo as better

to

to explain what are his deſigns, I will in conſequence ſend you further intelligence.

Adieu, my dear friend; I very tenderly embrace you.

FREDERIC.

LETTER LI.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Franckenſtein, June 9, 1759.

I HAVE juſt received your majeſty's orders, with the plan of the march, in two columns, for Tannhauſen and Landſhut.

Be it ſuppoſed, ſire, that the enemy will incline, with all his ſtrength, on the ſide of your majeſty, and that I am to march between Griſſau and St. Anne, to ſupport your left, I muſt then make a great circuit, in marching toward Landſhut; and I believe that, from Schwartzwalde, I may take to the left, toward the caſtle of Conradſwalde, and from thence croſs the woods, to occupy this poſt.

I entreat your majeſty to let the roads be reconnoitred, in order to know whether I can march in two columns with artillery; for this will

will greatly ſhorten my route. The diſtance thither is about nine miles.

There is nothing new paſſes here, except that general Werner informs me general De Ville has ordered a part of his corps to advance, from the camp of Weidenau, as far as Sorgſdorf, near Johanniſberg.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER LII.

From the King.

June 10, 1759.

I SEND you, my dear friend, the change of the columns, which becomes poſſible, becauſe I have ordered the road of Feldhammer to be repaired, which will be ready this evening.

They reconnoitred us the day before yeſterday, but they could not diſcover any thing, except the end of a hill, with a few tents; by which the gentlemen were not a little embarraſſed. Laudohn has been ordered to Schurtz, where he was yeſterday, and there a council was held.

The grand army has hitherto remained motionleſs. The man with the ſanctified toka muſt of neceſ-

neceſſity ſoon do ſomething. I ſhall tranquilly wait till he ſhall pleaſe to reſolve, and ſhall determine accordingly.

I employ every poſſible ſtratagem to obtain intelligence; and, after combining all I can hear, I now and then make a gueſs.

Our incertitude cannot long continue; and, as ſoon as the armies ſhall put themſelves in action, they muſt come to blows; this will throw light on the ſtate of affairs.

Adieu, my dear general,

FREDERIC.

LETTER LIII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Franckenſtein, June 10, 1759.

TO facilitate the march which I ſhall perhaps be obliged to make, I this day have ordered the battalion of Rath grenadiers to Silberberg; general Ramin, with the four battalions of Kalkſtein and of Manteufel, to Weigelſdorf; and the three regiments of cuiraſſiers of Seidlitz, Bredow, and Vaſold, to Mittel and Nieder-Peile.

General Meyer, with four battalions and the regiment of Bayreuth dragoons, is poſted at Peterſwalde.

Peterſwalde. There only remains therefore, in theſe environs, the regiment of Fouquet, two battalions of grenadiers, and the Werner huſſars, which in caſe of a march have the fartheſt to go.

As ſoon as theſe troops ſhall likewiſe quit this country, general De Ville will probably paſs the Neiſſe, and cauſe his corps to advance.

He yeſterday ſtruck his camp near Weidenau, and has again pitched his tents near Sorgſdorf, in the vicinity of Johanniſberg. His head quarters are at Wildſchut.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER LIV.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Franckenſtein, June 11, 1759.

IT has been the cuſtom of the Auſtrians to expoſe their allies, and occaſion them to be beaten.

This maxim prince Charles followed at Strigau, with the Saxons; Grün remained a mere ſpectator, at Keſſelſdorf; they peaceably ſaw the Saxons reduced by you at Pirna; and your

majeſty will ſee that Daun will follow the ſame principles. He will cauſe the Ruſſians to advance, and will make ſome demonſtrations, but will leave them to be beaten.

De Ville has marched forward with his corps, from Sorgſdorf to Weiſbach and Goſtitz, beyond Patſchkau, always backed by the mountains; on which I cauſed the bridges of Patſchkau and of Ottmachau to be broken down that night.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER LV.

From the King,

June 12, 1759.

I KNOW not what our enemies will do; but I begin to believe, my dear general, that we ſhall remain three weeks longer in our preſent poſition. Daun has not yet aſſembled his grenadiers in a body. Laſcy has not reconnoitred us.

They are bargaining, at Schurtz, with the farmers, to forage the green corn. Fermer has advanced to Konitz with a large part of his army, which had taken the road of Tempelburg,

burg, and turned toward Poſnania. I believe the army will arrive there about the 16th.

We ſhall then ſee what our ſanctified animal will undertake.

I have my fears for Luſatia, and would almoſt wager that our man will march toward Friedberg, and Greiffenberg.

Let us wait patiently; and if, between this and then, you have need of more troops, you may ſend for them to Franckenſtein; provided the poſt of Tannhauſen be ſuffered to remain.

Farewel, my dear friend.

FREDERIC.

LETTER LVI.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Franckenſtein, June 13, 1759.

THIS is only to ſend your majeſty three of your chaſſeurs, having the honour to inform you that every thing remains in the ſame ſtate.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER LVII.

From the King.

Reich-Hennerſdorf, June 14, 1759.

I RECEIVED your letter of the 13th of this month. The intelligence I have juſt heard, but which I will not warrant, is that Daun has orders, coſt what it will, to penetrate into Sileſia; and that, in conſequence, he has detached fifteen thouſand foot, to join Laudohn at Trautenau.

I believe not a word of this, becauſe it does not appear to me probable; and, ſhould theſe people attempt any thing on that ſide, be perſuaded they do not very well underſtand their buſineſs.

A deſerter, who left the army four days ago, affirms that the grenadiers of the grand army are ſtill with the regiments, which does not look like any attempt, or like an enſuing march. If Daun wiſhed to make any attack on this poſt, he would certainly place all his grenadiers in the van, and ſtill would not have enough.

Neither has Laſcy been to reconnoitre us; and ſo long as I ſhall not hear the name of that man on our limits, I ſhall never perſuade myſelf that the enemy has any ſerious intentions of coming hither.

You may depend on being informed of the ſmalleſt circumſtance which ſhall happen to me.

Do not neglect to aſſemble your thirteen battalions, and your cavalry, near Franckenſtein; that, in caſe of need, you may be ready for Wartha. I keep Bülow between us, with his eight battalions and his ſix ſquadrons of huſſars, that I may ſend them to you, ſhould it be ſo neceſſary; or make them join me, ſhould I foreſee the enemy will exert himſelf principally on this ſide. I will inform you of all, in proportion as I ſhall ſee what the deſigns of the enemy are.

D'O does me good ſervice, on the preſent occaſion; and, of all the intelligence which I endeavour to procure myſelf, not ſparing money, what he ſends is the beſt.

The intention of the Auſtrians indubitably is to inundate the county of Glatz, marching through the three defiles by which it is entered; and I begin to imagine that the corps of De Ville is deſtined to block up the paſſage of Wartha.

If you find you can make no uſe of your cuiraſſiers, you have only to tell me ſo, and I ſhall be ſufficiently inclined to ſend them to Dohna, who may employ them to ſome purpoſe, on the preſent occaſion, againſt the Ruſſians. I take this

this opportunity to inform you that Dohna is at Landſberg, and that it ſeems the Ruſſians intend to divide into two corps; the moſt conſiderable of which appears to aſſemble on the ſide of Poſnania, and the weakeſt on the ſide of Tempelburg. Dohna has only thirty-five ſquadrons of heavy horſe, and twenty-two of huſſars. If we have any that are uſeleſs here, whether it be you or I, it is but juſt to ſend them to him, concerning which I wait your anſwer.

I pray God to take you into his holy keeping.

FREDERIC.

LETTER LVIII.

From the King.

June 14, 1759.

ACCORDING to all the intelligence I have received, I ought to ſuppoſe the project of our enemies is to undertake the ſiege of Glatz. Collect your forces therefore, my friend, chiefly on the ſide of Franckenſtein; that you may be continually ready to occupy the poſt of Wartha.

I write to-day to Treſkow, that he may ſend you the battalion of Blankenſée, which you have always had with you.

Bülow muſt remain in his poſt, till the grand army of the enemy ſhall be determinate in its motions.

Such are the conſequences of a defenſive war; a hundred thouſand things muſt be thought of, and plans laid for all poſſible events.

Ramin may return to Wartha, ſhould you ſo think proper.

Adieu, my dear friend; I embrace you.

FREDERIC.

LETTER LIX.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Franckenſtein, June 15, 1759.

THE thirteen battalions, and the three regiments of cavalry, will be this day ready, agreeable to the orders of your majeſty.

General Ramin, with his four battalions, will be at the poſt of Wartha; general Bredow, with the three regiments of cavalry, at Olberſdorf and Peterwitz.

General Schenkendorf, with his five battalions and the Gerſdorf huſſars, remains near general Bülow.

General Meyer, with his dragoons and his four battalions, is at Frankenberg and Baumgarten.

I am

I am happy, ſire, to find the zeal, the probity, and the merit of D'O are known to you. People like him are the more eſtimable becauſe they are uncommon. He will follow the example of Phocion, ſhould he ever have need of hemloc.

It is not poſſible, ſire, for me to ſay whether I ſhall hereafter have need of the cuiraſſiers; ſince I know not whether it will be my fate to come to action on the hills or in the plain. I appeal to your majeſty's foreſight; if it be your pleaſure, I will detach a regiment, and you have only to inform me what route it is to take.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER LX.

From the King.

Undated.

I SHOULD find great difficulty, my dear friend, in informing you what ſhall happen, while the enemy ſhall remain inactive. This is a thing impoſſible to divine.

I ſee that the end which he promiſes to himſelf, by his operations, is to take Glatz.

I divine the means which he will uſe, to ac-

compliſh his purpoſe; but, as theſe means are very numerous, I may very eaſily be deceived. In this incertitude it is difficult to predict, and we muſt wait till it ſhall pleaſe his high excellence * to declare what is his plan.

I wait with patience for the plan of which this conſecrated animal ſhall be delivered.

We are alert, and keep our ears erect in our camp; like a greyhound waiting till the hare ſhall leave her form.

I have much bad news, a collection of tippling houſe tales of the enemy's army, with which I ſhall not trouble you. As ſoon as I am informed of any truths I ſhall ſend you intelligence.

Fermer advances, like the regent of a college, followed by his pedants. Perhaps the Auſtrians are waiting for him; but, be it as it may, we ſhall be obliged to find means to relieve ourſelves from our difficulties.

I know you think like me, and I have nothing new to add.

Adieu, my dear friend.

FREDERIC.

* Marſhal Daun.

LET-

LETTER LXI.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Peterwitz, June 24, 1759.

THE corps yeſterday morning occupied the camp near Peterwitz, on land which is not ſown; the right toward Peterwitz, and the left toward Franckenſtein, having Baumgarten and Riegerſdorf in the front.

General De Ville, finding himſelf ſtill near Wildſchutz, has detached ſome troops from his corps, along the mountains, toward Landeck.

Report ſays this detachment conſiſts of five thouſand men, but it probably is not ſo ſtrong.

To maſk his march, he cauſed ſome ulans and cavalry to advance as far as Weiſſwaſſer, and Reichſtein.

When we ſent to reconnoitre them, they were ſeen to retreat among the mountains; but they afterward returned to their poſt. They have alſo occupied Patſchkau.

According to advice ſent by general Treſkow, as well as by lieutenant-colonel Saſs, general Renard, with his light troops, has incloſed Coſel, on this ſide and beyond the Oder.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER LXII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Peterwitz, June 25, 1759.

I WAIT with extreme impatience for the accompliſhment of the good news, for which your majeſty has led me to hope.

Can it be poſſible, ſire, that the ſon of the late Chriſtian * ſhould wiſh to enter the liſts?

Were it at firſt only on his own frontiers, that would be ſomething. The firſt ſtep always is productive of another.

I ſend the *tage-liſte* * to your majeſty. The brigades of Ramin, Schenkendorf, and Bülow are there included. There are only a hundred and forty-four men wanting, of the calculation which you, ſire, have made of ſixty thouſand; including the battalion of Lattorf, and thoſe of Le Noble and Lüderitz.

I hope that Tauenzien, to whom I have written, will ſoon render them complete.

The *monats-liſtes* † will be ſent to-morrow to colonel Kruſemark.

L. M. FOUQUET.

* Of Denmark. † Day-liſt. ‡ Monthly-liſts.

LET-

LETTER LXIII.

From the King.

Reich-Hennerſdorf, June 25, 1759.

I RECEIVED your letter of the 25th of June, and I thank you for the liſts which you have ſent me. I find, according to this account, including officers, ſubalterns, drummers, and gunners, that the ſum total amounts to ſixty-four thouſand men.

The enemy has marched, or at leaſt he has made a motion, to-day. I ſeek to gain intelligence, and between this and to-morrow morning I ſuppoſe I ſhall know exactly what is tranſacting. Nothing preſſes, or obliges me to act too haſtily.

I am not certain that the army of Daun is on the march; I only know that a part of the corps of Laudohn is in motion.

We muſt at preſent keep in continual readineſs. I expect to hear from you of the motions of De Ville, from D'O of thoſe of Harſch, and from Bülow of thoſe of Beck. When I ſhall have combined the whole, I ſhall determine on the part which it is requiſite to take.

The good news which I imagine I may predict to you will never come from Denmark.

I am not yet ſufficiently informed of who it is who has marched, or of the route which is taken: till I have diſcovered this perfectly, I ſhall not move; eſpecially as, though the enemy be in action, nothing preſſes me.

Your report of the 24th of this month has been given me, and I ſhould be glad to know whether the detachment of general De Ville conſiſt of horſe or of foot.

It ſeems to me that a fortnight may yet elapſe, before the enemy will begin his operations; nor ſhall we till then be able to penetrate his real views.

On which I pray God to take you into his holy keeping.

FREDERIC.

LETTER LXIV.

From the King.

Reich-Hennerſdorf, June 25, 1759.

BECK, as I am informed, wiſhes to try his fortune on the ſide of Bülow. But do not let that diſturb you; it is our affair.

I believe, in deſpite of the plans of Daun, he will find himſelf obliged to be in motion by the 28th or the 30th.

I ſhall

I ſhall then be attentive to the firſt ſtep he ſhall take; it will diſcover his plan, and will enable me to write poſitively to you, on the manner in which it will be neceſſary to act.

Do not at leaſt accuſe me of being either reſtleſs or impatient, for they do but trifle with us.

FREDERIC.

LETTER LXV.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Peterwitz, June 26, 1759.

THE corps of De Ville ſtill occupies the camp near Wildſchutz. He has advanced poſts at Weiſſwaſſer, of about five hundred croats, and ſome huſſars and ulans. Patſchkau is diſgarniſhed of Auſtrian troops, and is viſited by the patroles of both parties.

It is ſaid that the detachment, ſent toward Landeck, conſiſts of infantry, of huſſars, and of croats. Some affirm it to be five thouſand ſtrong, others ſay three thouſand.

The deſerters who have laſt arrived depoſe that it conſiſts only of three battalions; but they can neither name what battalions nor relate any thing with certainty.

The

The forage which they exact, in upper Silesia, should be collected at Neustadt.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER LXVI.

From the King.

June 27, 1759.

THE motion of the enemy, which I mentioned to you in my last, is found to be absolutely false. The peasants and the hemp-sellers had spread it; and a heavy rain had deceived our patroles, by making it impossible for them to see. Some officers imagined they saw things that did not exist, and their fancy supplied the place of truth.

The troops of the foe are precisely in the place where they were; there has not been any removal. I amuse them by every kind of tale, which I spread according to my pleasure; but I foresee some change toward the conclusion of the month, or the beginning of the next.

In a few days I shall be able to send you great news. The enemy had proposed to begin his operations on the 15th of July.

I flatter myself his plans will be overthrown, and

and that he will be obliged to form more than one, before the cloſe of the campaign.

Adieu, my dear general.

FREDERIC.

LETTER LXVII.

From the King.

Reich-Hennerſdorf, June 29, 1759.

THE enemy marched yeſterday. The grand army is gone to Jung-Buntzlau. Laudohn is encamped at Prauſnitz. Beck ſhould be at a place called Horzetz, and general Harſch is marched to Jaromirz. Their bakery is gone to Teuſchbrod.

I freely own I can with difficulty imagine what all this can mean.

In the mean time you may ſend ſome two hundred dragoons, and as many huſſars, to Glatz, to gain further intelligence.

To-morrow I ſhall ſend a van-guard near Trautenau, that I may be informed of what is paſſing, and to keep theſe people in check, while this ſhall continue.

Dohna has marched againſt the Ruſſians; the latter,

latter, who have thirty thouſand men, are divided into three corps.

Dohna has marched to meet that in the centre, at Nakal; and, as his project appears to me to be infallible, I previouſly announce the good news which muſt arrive.

I have juſt taken Schatzlar, where we have made a captain of cavalry, three huſſars, ſome officers, and about a hundred pandours, priſoners.

On which I pray God to take you into his holy keeping.

FREDERIC.

LETTER LXVIII.

From General Fouquet.

Peterwitz, June 30, 1759.

I CONGRATULATE you, ſire, on the retreat of the Auſtrian army, and of the advantage which your majeſty has gained, by advancing and ſeizing on Schatzlar.

If you are unable to give me the key to the enigma, ſtill leſs able am I to divine its meaning.

According to what I conjecture, however, I ſuppoſe marſhal Daun endeavours to remove

your majeſty from the advantageous poſt which you occupy; or elſe that prince Henry has made an incurſion into Bohemia, which your majeſty muſt know better than I.

I immediately detached captain Szaley, with a hundred and twenty huſſars and two hundred dragoons, toward the county of Glatz; and I have provided him with neceſſary directions, relative to the intelligence which he may communicate to us.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER LXIX.

From the King.

June 30, 1759.

I SEND you an account of the march which the enemy has made. You will ſee what palpable groſs ſtratagem he has employed, to draw us from our poſt; but he will not ſucceed.

I this day have ſent Wedel to Trautenau, to obſerve him, and to obtain intelligence of what he is doing; and have ordered Seidlitz to advance to Lahn, to take the detachment of the enemy which marches through Bæhmiſch-Eiche.

I have ſuppoſed it was neceſſary to inform you

you of all this, that you might be perfectly acquainted with every thing that paſſes.

Bülow being in this ſituation, and of no uſe at Tannhauſen, I have ſent for him to come here; leaving however the free battalion, and colonel Gerſdorf, at the ſame poſt, with orders to make his reports to you and to me.

Adieu, my dear general. As ſoon as I ſhall hear any thing worth communicating, I will immediately ſend you word.

I embrace you with all my heart.

FREDERIC.

LETTER LXX.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Peterwitz, July 1, 1759.

AFTER all the motions which the Auſtrians have juſt made, I think that of two things they will chooſe one, or perhaps both at once; that is, they will march in full force toward Saxony, or detach a corps toward the march of Brandenburg.

All will go well, provided Dohna can but ſoon vanquiſh the Ruſſians.

According to the report of deſerters, from the corps

corps of De Ville, they have within theſe eight days received there thirty cannon, twelve ſix and three pounders, and five howitzers, but no mortars.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER LXXI.

From the King.

July 2, 1759.

WE muſt not be ſo very impatient, my dear general. The project of Daun was in conjunction with the manœuvres which the Ruſſians were to make; but I ſuppoſe that Dohna yeſterday overthrew one of the Ruſſian corps. Of this however I cannot gain information before the 3d, or the 4th.

The grand plan of Daun will thus be wholly deranged. He marches for Reichenberg; Jahnus is at Prauſnitz, Harſch at Jaromirz, and Beck at Skalitz.

I have ſent Seidlitz to Lahn; the enemy will take the road of Marck-Liſſa.

I have two principal points to attend to; the one is to cover Landſhut, the other is to prevent them from cutting me off from Glatz. This is what occupies me at preſent: the thing is very

difficult, but I muſt nevertheleſs endeavour to accompliſh my taſk.

The cannon of De Ville are only field artillery.

Adieu, my dear general.

FREDERIC.

LETTER LXXII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Peterwitz, July 2; 1759.

THE three regiments of horſe of Seidlitz, Bredow, and Waſold, are on their march, and will to-day enter Bægendorf, near Schweidnitz.

The detachments of the margrave Henry, and of Ramin, have in like manner retreated, and will to-day march as far as Hohen-Gierſdorf; to-morrow they will be at Landſhut.

Captain Szaley, with a hundred and twenty of the Gerſdorf huſſars, and the detachment of two hundred dragoons, which were ſent two days ago to Glatz, have likewiſe received orders to return to their regiments.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LET-

LETTER LXXIII.

From the King.

July 3, 1759.

I HAVE received, my dear general, your report of the 2d of this month. You did exceedingly well to ſend me the regiments entire, according to what I myſelf wrote; for were they weakened, by detachments, they would not render any very eſſential ſervice.

You have the regiment of Werner, which you may employ for neceſſary detachments.

General Laudohn is arrived at Reichenberg, and there has joined general Wehla.

I imagine I ſhall be informed to-day whether the grand army be to follow general Laudohn, or whether it be ſtill to remain near Jung-Buntzlau.

Should this be ſo, we muſt proceed very cautiouſly; over haſte might be exceedingly dangerous. I expect preciſe intelligence from lieutenant-colonel D'O, whether there be or be not any troops in the vicinity of Jaromirz.

Our men yeſterday went as far as Kœnigſhoff, where they found about eight or ten regiments.

Beck remains near Arnau; for which reaſon

I think it will not be very difficult for lieutenant-colonel D'O to diſcover whether general Harſch have left any forces in his rear, near Jaromirz, or whether his whole corps have marched with him to Kœnigſhoff. It is very neceſſary I ſhould know all this, for the regulation of my conduct; for, as ſoon as I perceive the enemy approaching Kœnigſhoff, and that his greateſt ſtrength is on the march toward Friedland, it will in that caſe be neceſſary for you to call in the battalions, which are in the province of Glatz.

Should I be obliged to join D'O, you will again encamp near Landſhut, in the place that you before occupied; but, before you undertake any thing, wait for more poſitive orders.

I embrace you.

FREDERIC.

LETTER LXXIV.

From the King.

July 4, 1759.

AS I am at preſent certain that the Auſtrian forces have turned on the ſide of Kœnigſhoff, it will be neceſſary to take our arrangements as follow:

You

You will have the goodneſs to call in to you all the Ramin brigade, and to march ſo as to be here on the 7th.

There is a thing I have at heart, and which you may further execute; this will be to ſend Le Noble to Scharffeneck and to Politz, to deſtroy all the fortifications of theſe gentry at Hutberg; and on his return he may ruin all the redoubts, and abatis, which have been thrown up near Bergicht, and Wernerſdorf.

I take theſe previous precautions in order that, having deſtroyed all theſe poſts, be it ſuppoſed that the enemy ſhould wiſh to undertake the ſiege of Glatz, our entrance on the ſide of Braunau may be free.

I ſhall depart from this place to-morrow, for Lahn, with my main van-guard, and I will leave you four battalions remaining here; that is, the brigade of Schenkendorf, with the free battalions of Angenelli and of Lüderitz.

The poſt that I have occupied with the army will not ſuit you, becauſe its extent is too great, and I imagine you will reaſſume your former redoubts. I ſhall leave you here, to-morrow, ſome howitzers and artillery.

On which I pray God to take you into his holy keeping.

P. S. The forces of the enemy being at Kœnigſhoff, you muſt of neceſſity come here. You may march this evening.

FREDERIC.

LETTER LXXV.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Peterwitz, July 4, 1759.

ACCORDING to your majeſty's orders, I have this day called in the brigade of Ramin. To-morrow at break of day I ſhall depart, and on the 6th I ſhall be with the vanguard at Landſhut; the corps will follow, and will arrive there on the 7th.

The patroles, who have been at Weiſſwaſſer, relate that the corps of De Ville has this day left the camp of Wildſchütz, and has directed its march toward Goldenſtein.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LET-

LETTER LXXVI.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Waldenburg, July 5, 1759.

I HAVE juſt arrived here, with two battalions of grenadiers and ſome huſſars; to-morrow, about noon, I ſhall be at Landſhut. The corps, which to-day is in the environs of Leutmannſdorf, will take up its quarters here to-morrow; and the day after, the ſeventh, will be at the camp of Landſhut.

After the receipt of your majeſty's letter, I immediately ſent Le Noble, with his battalion, toward Braunau and Politz, to deſtroy the abatis and entrenchments of the Auſtrians in thoſe parts. He was accompanied by a hundred of the Werner huſſars.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER LXXVII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landſhut, the 7th and 8th of July, 1759.

I ARRIVED here yeſterday morning, at eight o'clock, with my vanguard; the whole corps occupied the camp this day at noon.

Yeſterday, more of the Auſtrians entered Schatzlar, and the whole corps of De Ville has taken its route toward Freywalde.

I keep up a continual correſpondence with general Treſkow, and lieutenant-colonel D'O. They both wrote to me yeſterday, telling me that which the firſt related to your majeſty, concerning general de Ville, and which is further confirmed by other intelligence. It is added that the ſame corps is to form a junction with general Harſch.

It is affirmed that a part of the corps of this general has advanced as far as Trautenau.

I wait more certain information, from the expreſs which has been ſent.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER LXXVIII.

From the King.

MY DEAR GENERAL, The camp near Lahn, July 10, 1759.

I HAVE received your report of the 8th of July, and I perceive at preſent that I acted with great propriety, in ſending you the regiment of Neiſs; becauſe nothing will paſs on your ſide; and, in caſe troops were there neceſ-

ſary,

ſary, we ſhall continually have the road open, to ſend them to that town.

Daun is at Marck-Liſſa, Laudohn near Greiffenberg. I ſhall be obliged to aſſemble all my forces, to give them battle; therefore about the time of conflict, which I refer to the 15th, I ſhall be unable to afford you any aſſiſtance.

According to my eſtimate, De Ville has ten thouſand, and Harſch twelve thouſand men; and you, with the reinforcement of the regiment of Moſel, will have nearly nineteen thouſand; with whom, by the goodneſs of your poſt, you may be able to oppoſe your enemy.

I am your very affectionate king.

FREDERIC.

LETTER LXXIX.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landſhut, July 9, 1759.

COLONEL Le Noble is this morning arrived in our camp, from his expedition to Friedland.

He has deſtroyed all the fortifications, and abatis, which he found in the vicinage of Politz, Hutberg, Potiſch, and Bergicht.

But

But more than two thouſand pandours, and huſſars, having yeſterday appeared, on the heights of Politz, and ſome parties of the enemy advancing as far as Wernerſdorf, to cut off his retreat on the ſide of Halbſtadt, he withdrew laſt night, and was obliged to abandon a redoubt, from which the enemy drove the workmen.

From Friedland, news is brought that four hundred pandours, dragoons, and huſſars, were there ſeen, this morning, who have ſeized on the burgomaſter and two ſenators, becauſe they were unable immediately to bring them the quantity of wine, brandy, and meat, which they demanded.

Ten or twelve regiments are encamped near Trautenau, under the command of general Harſch, who arrived there on the 6th.

People from Starckſtadt have affirmed that yeſterday a corps paſſed through Starckſtadt, on its march to Politz.

From theſe reports it appears that the corps of Harſch is approaching us.

This intelligence is juſt confirmed, by a letter which general Jahnus yeſterday ſent me, from Schatzlar, by trumpet.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER LXXX.

From the King.

MY DEAR GENERAL, The camp of Schenk-Seiffen, July 10, 1759.

I HAVE received your report of the 9th of this month, and it is at preſent neceſſary that you ſhould think of ſome means to drive the pandours and huſſars out of theſe countries, that they may be prevented from taking us in flank.

It ſeems to me the enemy would have no great inclination to advance, were you to oppoſe him by even a feeble poſt.

I am, &c.

It is requiſite you ſhould act with a little more malice, and not permit the enemy to take up his quarters under your noſe, at Friedland.

FREDERIC.

LETTER LXXXI.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landſhut, July 10, 1759.

THE poſt that the corps occupies is well ſituated, and it is to be hoped may maintain it-

ſelf againſt general Harſch. Should he ſend a detachment on the ſide of Braunau, and Friedland, circumſtances will not admit of his being oppoſed by another detachment, nor of a ſeparation of the corps; ſuch detachment being continually expoſed to be cut off, I muſt neceſſarily ſend reinforcements.

However, in purſuance of your majeſty's orders, I have poſted three hundred men of the free battalions, and a hundred huſſars, near Friedland, under the command of lieutenant-colonel Lüderitz.

I learn, from different accounts, that the party of the enemy, which yeſterday was at Friedland, is retired on the ſide of Schœmberg, and that it yeſterday received a reinforcement of horſe and foot.

An expreſs brings intelligence that the frontier villages, ſituated in the diſtrict of Braunau, Aderſbach, Merkelſdorf, Wackelſdorf, Wernerſdorf, Neuſorge, Halbſtadt, and Rupperſdorf, are occupied by the enemy.

Three Auſtrian huſſars have this morning announced, at Schœmberg, that a battalion of pandours and four hundred huſſars, who were at Bartelſdorf, will this day enter that place.

It is further reported, from Liebau, that the Auſtrians who are poſted at Rehhorn are continually reinforced.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER LXXXII.

From the King.

July 11, 1759.

YOU wiſh, my dear general, to draw the enemy into a ſnare; but you deceive yourſelf: he will not attack, but means to blockade you.

You muſt act a little ſpitefully; and, on the firſt opportunity, fall on ſome corps which is ill poſted, and take him ſomewhat rudely by the ears.

I am to-day aſſured that Daun is entrenching himſelf near Marck-Liſſa; I cannot tell why, for I certainly have no intention to attack him there.

Should the enemy mean to penetrate with all his forces through Friedland, march on his rear. You have the road open through Conradſwalde, and you have the heights of Friedland in the woods, as far as Cider.

You can effect nothing at Rehhorn; but the caſe is very different on the ſide of Schœmberg.

In fine, I leave you to act as you ſhall yourſelf think proper, and I only communicate my ideas, becauſe the ground in thoſe parts is well known to me.

I am here in a very ſtrong camp, and in caſe of neceſſity am able to detach four battalions and ten ſquadrons, and yet not ſuffer more or

leſs

leſs than a hundred thouſand men to inſult me: be under no fears therefore for me.

The Ruſſians cry like children: the poor babies have not above forty thouſand men; and Dohna, as it is affirmed, will not ſuffer them to move.

Report ſays Daun means to ſend a detachment to their aid, through Luſatia; but it is forgotten that my brother is ready to cut down this detachment, previous to its arrival.

Adieu, my dear general.

FREDERIC.

LETTER LXXXIII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landſhut, July 13, 1759.

I AM this moment informed, from Schœmberg, that it is the intention of the Auſtrians to advance, to-morrow, in three columns, and attack the poſt which I occupy.

One of theſe columns is to march through Friedland, another through Schœmberg, and the third through Liebau.

The frontier villages are full of huſſars, ulans, and pandours.

Lieutenant-

Lieutenant-colonel Lüderitz ſends me intelligence from Friedland that more than two thouſand men, conſiſting of huſſars, pandours, and Hungarian infantry, are advancing to attack him: I have ſent him orders to retreat, and not to wait their attack.

I will give them the beſt reception in my power, ſhould they come hither.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER LXXXIV.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landſhut, July 14, 1759.

THE reſult of all the manœuvres of the Auſtrians is that yeſterday, about ſix in the evening, they attacked the poſt of Friedland, on three ſides at once.

Lieutenant-colonel Lüderitz was advertiſed of their arrival.

Though I told him by word of mouth, and wrote to the ſame effect, to him and to captain Roſenkrantz, that, ſhould they be attacked by a ſtrong party of the enemy, they muſt retire through the woods; he nevertheleſs determined to wait their attack, in his poſt, and to defend himſelf.

The

The Auſtrians made their attack ſuddenly, in front, and on the two flanks; they have entirely diſperſed the detachment of three hundred men of the free battalions, and have made many priſoners. Few of our men are yet come in, and report ſays colonel Lüderitz is fallen.

The detachment of huſſars, under captain Roſenkrantz, is almoſt entirely here; no more than ſix men are miſſing.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER LXXXV.

From the King.

The camp of Schmottſciffen,
July 17, 1759.

I AM vexed, my dear general, to hear, from your report of the 12th of this month, that your orders were ſo ill executed by lieutenant-colonel Lüderitz, in his poſt near Friedland.

Do not by any means ſuffer the foe to occupy this poſt; it is, on the contrary, abſolutely neceſſary to drive him to a diſtance from you.

You may fall upon him in flank, by the road of Conradſwalde, and ſend him to take the air ſomewhere elſe.

It appears to me that the enemy made you believe

believe he meant to attack you to-day, that he might prevent you from ſuccouring the poſt near Friedland.

By this accident, the two free battalions of Wiede are, beyond a doubt, rendered inactive for two or three months. Open a road to the free battalions, and ruin every other paſſage, ſo that they may not be attacked in the rear.

I have left only a hundred men in this poſt, that they may retreat with the greater eaſe.

I am, &c.

Revenge muſt abſolutely be taken, and this ſtain waſhed away in the blood of the enemy.

FREDERIC.

LETTER LXXXVI.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landſhut, July 15, 1759.

THE Auſtrians, not having occupied the poſt of Friedland, retired the day before yeſterday to their frontier villages, Merkelſdorf, Adlerſbach, Weckelſdorf, and Wernerſdorf.

I cannot prevent them from ſending their patroles as far as the environs of Friedland; but

your majeſty may reſt perſuaded I will not ſuffer them to occupy this poſt, and that I will ſeize any opportunity in which I may be enabled to ſtrike ſome effectual blow.

Should however a detachment of the enemy endeavour to penetrate near Friedland, and to march among the mountains, I ſhall offer no oppoſition, but ſhall endeavour to cut off their retreat.

Of the detachment of free battalions, two officers, five ſubalterns, and a hundred and forty men are arrived here; perhaps there are many more ſtill concealed among the mountains. The ſix miſſing huſſars have alſo made their appearance.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER LXXXVII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landſhut, July 16, 1759.

IF the enemy begin to entrench himſelf, and draw parallels on the ſide of your majeſty, his demonſtrations here are of a very different nature.

Labourers are commanded on my right, toward Kolben and the Grætzbauden, oppoſite Schmiedeberg,

Schmiedeberg, to open the abatis; and the Auſtrians have ſpread a report that they mean to penetrate on this ſide.

Jahnus and Simbſchen are at Golden-Elſe, Schatzlar, and thoſe environs; from whence the firſt has ſent me a letter, from lieutenant-colonel Lüderitz, who is a priſoner at Trautenau, where Harſch and De Ville hold their quarters, with the greateſt part of their forces.

They have received a reinforcement of artillery there, of thirty pieces. They have detached a regiment of dragoons, and two battalions of pandours, who remain on the frontiers of Merkelſdorf and Weckelſdorf. They begin to open the roads to drag cannon thither, and to repair the abatis and the entrenchments which Le Noble had in part deſtroyed, and to ſend their patroles as far as the environs of Friedland.

I went this morning beyond Schœmberg, toward Bertelſdorf and Adlerſbach, in order to reconnoitre; and I found there were no means of accompliſhing my purpoſe. We diſcovered poſts of dragoons, huſſars, and pandours, on the hills; but none of them deſcended in purſuit of us.

From theſe manœuvres I imagine, ſire, they are endeavouring to induce me to make detachments, that they may afterward attack this poſt

with their whole force, for which I have no apprehenſions, while it ſhall be occupied by the corps which is now there.

The regiment of Moſel arrived this morning.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER LXXXVIII.

From the King.

The camp of Schmottſeiffen,
July 18, 1759.

I HAVE received your report of the 16th of this month. After having calculated the ſtrength of the enemy, and made full allowance for all his forces, I cannot make the total of his corps amount to more than eighteen thouſand men: now, a corps of nineteen thouſand men defending itſelf againſt eighteen thouſand, in a good poſt, certainly ought to find great advantages.

I know your poſition, becauſe I was there long enough, and have ſtudied the ground minutely. You can neither attack the poſt of Schatzlar nor that of Trautenau; nor can you penetrate through Altdorff; it is a murderous paſs.

The enemy has ſo entirely deſtroyed the road which

which leads to Bœhmiſch-Johrſdorf, by the large hewn ſtones which they have ſtrewed over it, that you cannot paſs them; unleſs the huſſars ſhould alight and lead their horſes.

The poſt of Bergicht might be taken, but it would coſt many men, and the game will not pay the expence of cards.

You have nothing for it but ambuſcades; but they muſt be ſtrong, in order that, ſhould the enemy make any attempt, as he will not fail to do, you may give a good account of him.

Should any troops come on the ſide of Paſs, they muſt immediately be attacked in the rear.

You are ſtronger in infantry than theſe gentry; their cavalry will ſcarcely be able to act in any part of that country. Should they approach with two thouſand men, make a detachment of four thouſand on their rear.

The ambuſcades which may be laid for them are, on the road which leads from Liebau to Lindenau, in the hollow way of the fourteen Nothhelfer, the environs of Scherffenberg, and in the woods which are on the ſide of Friedland.

You are neceſſarily obliged to have ſome moveable poſts.

For example, you cannot diſpenſe with having ſome on the heights beſide Weiſsbach.

Let theſe poſts be well informed that they are placed there only to give intelligence; and that any officer, who ſhould unſeaſonably wait till the enemy might come up, would be tried by a council of war, and puniſhed.

That you may well underſtand the plan of the enemy, and of his entrenchments, I will explain the affair to you.

Daun has ordered Gemingen to join him, who had been detached with about ſeven thouſand men to the army of the Empire; and he has cauſed an entrenched camp to be thrown up, between Lauban and Marck-Liſſa, which camp I believe he will enter this evening.

Though Dohna has behaved very ill, in counteracting the Ruſſians, his paſſage of the Wartha has occaſioned Soltikow to cry aloud, imagining himſelf to be cut off from Thorn. He calls with all his might for ſuccours.

The court of Vienna has determined to ſend a detachment of thirteen thouſand men to his aid.

Laudohn is to command this detachment, and is to march through Sagan for Croſſen, there to paſs the Oder, and thus endeavour to join the Ruſſians.

I yeſterday detached the prince of Wirtemberg, with ſix battalions, two regiments of dragoons, and the huſſars of Buntzlau.

My

My brother Henry will immediately march for Sagan, to diſturb this detachment on its road, and ſend it back to air itſelf the way it came.

While Daun ſhall continue at Lauban, and I ſhall keep my camp here; I ſhall be ſufficiently in force to maintain my ſituation.

But ſhould Laudohn be beaten, and ſent back, I imagine he will endeavour to enter Sileſia on this ſide. Should that happen before the prince of Wirtemberg can join me, I ſhall be obliged to borrow three battalions of infantry, and a regiment of dragoons from you; of which I pledge myſelf to make good uſe.

But ſhould Daun think proper to remain in his entrenchments, I will not aſk you for ſo much as a drummer.

On which I pray God to take you into his holy keeping.

At preſent you perceive, my friend, what is the affair in queſtion. Daun will undertake nothing; at leaſt not till he has diſentangled the Ruſſians, which I flatter myſelf I ſhall prevent him from effecting.

The court of Vienna, or perhaps Deſpair, will then oblige him to take other meaſures.

FREDERIC.

LETTER LXXXIX.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landſhut, July 17, 1759.

I BELIEVE a general attack is here intended; and that it will be attempted by Harſch, De Ville, and Jahnus.

Jahnus arrived this very night, at eleven o'clock, near Schœmberg and Liebau, with a corps of two battalions of grenadiers, two thouſand pandours, four ſquadrons of huſſars, a pulk of ulans, the regiment of Birkenfeld cuiraſſiers, the regiments of Modena, Saxe-Gotha, and the Saint Ignon dragoons, and a ſquadron of prince Charles's dragoons.

I went to reconnoitre them this morning, and I puſhed forward, on one ſide, beyond Liebau and Ditterſbach, and on the other from Gruſſau as far as Ullerſdorf; where he ſupported his left among the hills of Ullerſdorf, and his right behind Schœmberg.

My project was to attack him on his left tomorrow; but he continues his march in two columns, the firſt through Peterſdorf and Bertelſdorf, toward Schœmberg; and the other through Schatzlar, toward Liebau.

The

The detachment that was between Merkelſdorf and Weckelſdorf, behind Friedland, is advanced to-day, and has taken poſt near Conradſwalde.

By theſe diſpoſitions, I find myſelf rather under reſtraint. I will endeavour to-morrow to reconnoitre, and learn what is to be done, and to profit by any opportunity that ſhall offer.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER XC.

From the King.

July 18, 1759.

IN all probability the demonſtration of the enemy, in marching to Liebau, Schœmberg, and Conradſwalde, was nothing more than a bravado.

I am of opinion that Harſch will not attack you, but will retreat after to-morrow.

Theſe people are not ſufficiently in force to inſult a poſt ſo formidable as yours.

The whole was an intention to oblige me to ſend a detachment to you, and not to ſend any againſt Laudohn, who departed yeſterday evening for Sagau.

The

The prince of Wirtemberg will be before him, nor will I take one of the ſteps which it is Daun's wiſh I ſhould take.

Adieu, my friend; you will have an excellent affair with the rear-guard of theſe folks.

With reſpect to thoſe at Schœmberg, you muſt only follow them a little beyond Schœmberg, and not ſo far as Bertelſdorf; and thoſe from Liebau as far as the croſs, and Schwartzwaſſer, by the two eminences that ſtand by the gibbet of Liebau, and the heights on the left of Ditterſbach. With reſpect to thoſe at Conradſwalde you may treat them worſe than the others.

Adieu, my dear general; this is all I have to ſay to you.

FREDERIC.

P. S. I hear that you tell every body the enemy is forty thouſand ſtrong, which diſpleaſes me much; firſt becauſe it is not true—he is only eighteen thouſand ſtrong; and again becauſe we muſt not intimidate our men, who are but too timid of themſelves.

LET-

LETTER XCI.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landſhut, July 18, 1759.

THE combined corps of generals Harſch, De Ville, Jahnus, and Simbſchen, are all poſted near Schœmberg; the rear-guard arrived there this night.

According to the report of the deſerters, the amount of this corps ought to be forty thouſand men, and perhaps provided with a train of ſixty pieces of artillery.

According to my eſtimate, it cannot amount to more than thirty thouſand men.

To-day, at two in the morning, I began to march with the free battalions, and two battalions of grenadiers, to reconnoitre the poſition of the enemy; but a thick fog, which continued till nine o'clock, would not permit me to make an exact diſcovery of their camp.

The advanced poſts of their left wing have been repulſed as far as their camp, and a few of them were taken.

The grenadiers and two thouſand pandours marched to ſupport them; but, it not being my intention to ſkirmiſh with them, we retreated to our camp in good order.

Some

Some deſerters have reported that the intention of general Harſch was to attack us in our poſt, to-morrow; others, on the contrary, imagine his deſign is to cut off the communication of our corps with Schweidnitz.

The detachment, which advanced as far as Conradſwalde, ſtill remains poſted at that place, and is ſaid to have been reinforced by three regiments of Saxon dragoons.

Should they make any detachments, to cut off our communication with Schweidnitz, I do not find myſelf ſtrong enough to detach in oppoſition to them, without weakening myſelf on one ſide or on the other.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER XCII.

From the King.

July 20, 1759.

THE enemy has made many motions on this ſide, but I cannot poſitively tell you yet what is his intention.

I am therefore obliged to act circumſpectly, that I may continue in force, and may be able to fall upon the corps, ſhould he make any attempt.

Laudohn

Laudohn has been detached. I ſent after him in haſte; he retreated, and was in like manner repulſed by the prince of Wirtemberg.

They are unable to cut you off from Schweidnitz. Some parties gliding among the mountains are not of any great importance; they can do no harm. We muſt think of great things, and overlook trifles.

I will almoſt engage my head the enemy will not attack you; and, ſo long as you ſhall remain in your preſent poſt, he will think twice before he will endeavour to penetrate, in your deſpite, toward Schweidnitz.

I can make no detachment to you, without riſking my entire ſtock in trade.

In a few days, you will find the whole of their projects will be diſcovered.

Adieu, my dear general; do not ſee double; the enemy cannot, at the utmoſt, have more than twenty thouſand men.

FREDERIC.

LET-

LETTER XCIII.

From the King.

July 21, 1759.

GENERAL Laudohn is returned to the Auſtrian army, and the prince of Wirtemberg has marched back to Buntzlau. According to my information, the Auſtrian army is in want of forage, for they eat green meat. The country in which they are is not ſufficiently fruitful for them to ſubſiſt in it long; I therefore think that, if we wait patiently a week longer, the number of their horſes will oblige them to decamp.

They are already preluding, near Landſcron; as ſoon as they ſhall retire, I will immediately ſend a good detachment to your neighbours of Friedland.

This is all I am able to inform you of, at preſent, relative to what is paſſing on this ſide.

The enemy will neither attack you nor me, ſo long as we ſhall remain in our preſent poſition; but we muſt act in conjunction, and beware how we make any detachments.

On which I pray God to take you into his holy keeping.

FREDERIC.

LETTER XCIV.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landſhut, July 21, 1759.

THE whole corps of general Harſch began its march laſt night, and this morning continued its route toward Conradſwalde, Schwarzwalde, and Witgendorf.

I immediately detached general Ramin, with two battalions and ſome dragoons and huſſars, toward Forſt; but he could not make the place, for the environs of Forſt, on this ſide, he found were all occupied by the enemy.

I detached general Schenkendorf, with a battalion and a hundred horſe, toward Liebau; and he directed his march through Ullerſdorf and Schœmberg.

I followed them, in perſon, with two battalions and three hundred horſe, beyond Gurtelſdorf; but the Auſtrian rear-guard was there ſo well poſted, that it was impoſſible for me to make any advantageous attack.

We cannonaded each other about two hours, with the loſs of ſome men; and we on our parts took about twenty priſoners.

They have, in general, ſo cautiouſly covered

their march, that it is impoſſible to divine whether it be their intention to go to Freyburg, or to Friedland.

In caſe they ſhould march for Friedland, I believe their deſign is to proceed to Glatz.

They alſo may mean to halt, with an intention to attack this poſt on the ſide of Hartmannſdorf; in which caſe I expect to give them a good reception.

I wiſh I had a greater number of cannon with which to oppoſe them; for their rear-guard attacked me with a train of fifteen pieces, while I had only ſix. There ſhould be ſix twelve pounders at Schweidnitz.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER XCV.

From the King.

July 22, 1759.

I HAVE received your letter of the 21ſt of this month. The motions which the enemy makes can only tend to induce you to leave your poſt; the Auſtrians certainly have no deſign to march to Glatz.

But I imagine they intend to place themſelves,

ſelves, with all their forces, between you and Schweidnitz.

But they themſelves may be the dupes, in purſuing this plan; for, let but a very inconſiderable corps of our troops be ſtationed on the tops of the mountains, in an inattackable poſt, between Friedland and Griſſau, and you may intercept their communication with their magazines entirely, and their army, wanting bread, will be obliged to decamp.

Before you determine to act thus, however, it will be neceſſary to ſee whether they do not intend to attack you, on the ſide of Hartmannſdorf.

Do not march with ſuch feeble detachments. Two battalions and three hundred horſe are inſufficient for the attack of a rear-guard; it is neceſſary to take at leaſt ſix battalions, ſeven or eight cannon, and five or ſix hundred horſe.

This number is certainly neceſſary, on ſuch an occaſion. The ſix pounders are at Schweidnitz, but I do not think that you can ſend for them now, becauſe the danger would be too great.

Should it appear that there will be an action, and that nothing will be done on this ſide, I can then for ſome days lend you Krokow, with his three battalions and two ſquadrons.

On which I pray God to take you into his holy keeping.

FREDERIC.

P. S. I believe we ſhall ſoon receive intelligence of a battle with the Ruſſians.

LETTER XCVI.

From the King.

July 22, 1759.

THE enemy has to-day detached general Beck, with four thouſand men, to Neuſtadt.

As I ſuppoſe he will march from thence to Trautenau, I ſhall this evening ſend off a detachment to relieve Krokow, at Hirſchberg; that is, three battalions of infantry, and two ſquadrons of huſſars, to occupy the poſt of Landſhut; and, ſhould the thing be practicable, thus to furniſh you with the means of marching, with your whole corps, to attack the enemy, and derange his projects. You may at leaſt come on his rear, and cut off his ſubſiſtence, on the ſide of Bohemia.

Perhaps you may fall on one of the corps which ſhall be moſt within your reach, and beat it in a handſome manner.

On

On which I pray God to take you into his holy keeping.

FREDERIC.

LETTER XCVII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landſhut, July 22, 1759.

AFTER having reconnoitred, to the beſt of my abilities, this morning, I believe the corps of general Harſch to be poſted on the heights, near Schwarzwalde and Conradſwalde, toward Friedland.

The heights and the woods are ſo garniſhed with pandours, and other light troops, that it is impoſſible to proceed to reconnoitre, or to ſend the patroles forward.

Hitherto we find no means of divining what is their intention.

Report ſays a party of pandours, and huſſars, remains poſted near Schatzlar, and Golden-Elſe. It is further added that infantry will be ſent to join them; but I wait for the confirmation of this intelligence.

General Angenelli is this moment come to inform me that he found a detachment of the

enemy, of about ten battalions, encamped behind Kœnigſhayn, near Schatzlar.

The magiſtrate of Liebau ſends me word that five regiments of infantry and cavalry, all regulars, encamp on the heights of Reiſſen, behind Schatzlar; without including the troops that are at Krienſdorf, Schatzlar, and Lamperſdorf.

Another corps ſhould be poſted on the heights behind Bernſdorf, near Elſe, extending toward Trautenau; and this conjecture is juſt now confirmed, by information from Schœmberg. This your majeſty may ſee more at length from the incloſed.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER XCVIII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landſhut, July 22, 1759.

THE corps of the enemy, under general Harſch, decamped this afternoon for Schwarzwalde, and Conradſwalde; and marched in two columns.

I immediately went to reconnoitre, that I might know what was paſſing in the environs of Witgendorf, Forſt, and Hartau; and I perceived

ceived one of their columns on its march, toward Gotteſberg; and the other toward Friedland. I expect, to-morrow, more circumſtantial information, on this ſubject.

A letter, from general Wolferſdorf to general de Ville, intercepted by our huſſars, near Conradſwalde, informs me that general Harſch, having been taken ill, is departed for Jaromirz, and is ſince gone to Kœnigſgrætz.

General de Ville has taken the command of the enemy's corps.

According to the contents of the ſame letter, general Wolferſdorf, with a corps of eight thouſand men, has taken poſt near Golden-Elſe, and has ſent a detachment to Friedland.

As I have juſt been informed that the Auſtrians procure their proviſions from Trautenau, by Patſchdorf, Bertelſdorf, and Friedland, I immediately detached general Goltz, with two free battalions, three battalions of grenadiers, the regiment of the margrave Henry, four ſquadrons of dragoons, four ſquadrons of huſſars, and ten cannon, toward Friedland, to cut off the enemy's convoy. He has poſted himſelf today on the heights which lie beyond Conradſwalde, near Trautlieberſdorf; and has cauſed his van-guard to advance as far as the ſkirts of the great wood of Friedland.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER XCIX.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landshut, July 23, 1759.

I THINK that, under present circumstances, it would be exceedingly advisable to place ourselves in the rear of the enemy, and cut off his communication of stores and provisions. With this intent I detached general Goltz, to take post on the heights beyond Conradswalde, near Trautlieberſdorf. But general Wolferſdorf having been found posted with eight thousand men, near Golden-Else, according to the contents of the intercepted letters; and as general Beck will probably join this corps, with the detachment of four thousand men which he commands, general Krokow, having only three battalions and two squadrons of hussars, will find himself too feeble to maintain this post, even should I leave him, when I depart, three battalions as a reinforcement.

I wait your majesty's orders, to know whether I ought thus to enfeeble this post.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LET-

LETTER C.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landſhut, July 23, 1759.

I HAVE the honour to preſent to your majeſty the liſt of the Auſtrian corps, in theſe environs. It is as exact as I could make it, from the report of the priſoners and the deſerters, who are here to the number of eighty, and among whom there is a gunner.

As this corps is accompanied by a great number of cavalry, the enemy's intention appears to be to extend into the plain.

According to the report of a deſerter, who arrived laſt night, the Auſtrians are in full march, directing their route toward Schweidnitz.

I have juſt now likewiſe received a letter from general Zaſtrow, in which he informs me that the whole army is on its march, toward Gotteſberg, and Waldenberg, to repair to Schweidnitz, from which place, it is only half a mile diſtant.

General Krokow has ſent his aid de camp, to inform me that he will march hither, with his three battalions, at one o'clock this afternoon.

I wait your majeſty's commands, to know whether I am to march with my corps. I may in any caſe leave general Krokow here, with the regiment of Moſel, and the fourth battalion of Lettorf; as well as general Angenelli, with his free battalion; provided this number of troops be ſufficient.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CI.

From the King.

July 24, 1759.

I HAVE received your two reports of the 23d of July. So long as you ſhall hold Landſhut, it will be impoſſible for the enemy to make any progreſs in Sileſia.

Five battalions remain near Landſhut; you may eaſily march with eighteen battalions, and poſt yourſelf between Conradſwalde and Friedland, at the ſame time rendering yourſelf maſter of the poſt of Friedland, to carry the enemy's troops that are there, and intercept their convoys on every ſide. Should theſe gentry entirely leave the mountains, it will always be time enough to fall on them in a body.

But

But there are ſo many things, at preſent, at a criſis that we muſt wait, till ſome opportunity is found with the Ruſſians, before we fall together by the ears with theſe people; at leaſt unleſs they ſhould become raſh, and ſhould entirely deſcend into the plain.

In ſuch a caſe, I will ſee whether there be any means of ſending a ſmall detachment from this place, and then march upon them, to beat them to ſome effect.

With reſpect to the liſt of the enemy's forces, which you have ſent me, it is not entirely accurate; for the regiments of Saxon cavalry contain only four ſquadrons; and the Tuſcan regiment, which is there, has only one battalion. But I will examine the liſt with attention, and will write to inform you how far it is true, or falſe.

On which I pray God to take you into his holy keeping.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CII.

From the King.

July 24, 1759.

I CAN aſſure you, with tolerable accuracy, according to my liſts, that the Auſtrian army conſiſts in a hundred and two battalions.

Sixty-ſix battalions are here, and twenty-nine there*, which amount to ninety-five battalions. Gemmingen has ſix or eight battalions with him, near Bornſtædt; they muſt therefore have ſent battalions from this place to Wolferſdorf, which is near Trautenau; and the corps which was near Arnau has been detached in like manner. Simſchen can only conſiſt of one battalion; Tuſcany, on the contrary, of two; Preyſach conſiſts only of one battalion; but there is a battalion of Wallis, and another of the old Coloredo, wanting in your liſts.

In the whole, you are oppoſed by twenty-eight battalions of fuſiliers, and five battalions of grenadiers, with thirty-eight ſquadrons; amounting to fourteen thouſand foot, two thouſand five hundred grenadiers, four thouſand four hundred horſe, five hundred huſſars, and ſome thouſands

* That is, as I ſhould imagine, facing general Fouquet; yet this does not agree with the enumeration in the next paragraph. T.

of pandours: in the whole, twenty-three thouſand four hundred men.

By taking poſt between Friedland and Conradſwalde, you will cut off the proviſions of the enemy; but you muſt poſt yourſelf on the hills; and, ſhould Wolferſdorf make any attempt on Landſhut, you will be but a ſhort league diſtant from Conradſwalde, and may fall upon and repulſe him with your whole corps.

In fine, if you deprive the enemy of his tranſports of flour, he cannot long maintain his ſituation. It will be further neceſſary for you to watch all his detachments, that you may haraſs him by all poſſible means.

As ſoon as I ſhall find he has quitted the hills, I will endeavour to ſend a detachment, that he may be properly beaten.

I am, &c.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CIII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landſhut, July 24, 1759.

AT the approach of general Goltz, toward Friedland, the two battalions of Tuſcany, and

and two ſquadrons of huſſars and dragoons, had time to leave the town, and eſcape. Our detachment nevertheleſs ſeized on moſt of their field-equipage, with two hundred chaiſes and baggage-waggons, and their horſes; together with forty mules, and twenty thouſand crowns in ready money. Some twenty priſoners were taken in the purſuit.

General Goltz ſtill occupies the poſt of Friedland; to cut off all ſuccour from the enemy, on that ſide.

Should the enemy, wanting proviſions, be obliged to retreat, I will march with my corps, and take poſt at Friedland; and will endeavour to make general Goltz advance as far as Johanniſberg.

I am this moment informed that the Auſtrians are poſted between Sorge and Kuntzendorf, which induces me to begin my march immediately, to repair to Gotteſberg. I ſhall afterward regulate my conduct by the motions of the enemy.

I leave general Krokow here, in the entrenchments, with the three battalions and two ſquadrons of huſſars, which he brought me. I ſhall further leave him the regiment of Moſel, a battalion of Lattorf, and a free battalion of Angenelli.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CIV.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Gotteſberg, July 24, 1759.

THIS afternoon I arrived with my corps near Gotteſberg. I have left Krokow near Landſhut, with ſeven battalions.

General Goltz is ſtill poſted with his detachment near Friedland; he has to-day ſent in thirty-five priſoners, which he has taken from the enemy.

On my arrival, I found more than a thouſand pandours and dragoons, that were poſted on the heights, on the other ſide of Gotteſberg. They were immediately repulſed, by the vanguard of the huſſars, and purſued beyond Waldenburg. We took on this occaſion about twenty priſoners.

I have been very well able to examine the camp of the enemy, from the top of our hills. It extends from Furſtenſtein, along Liebichau, as far as Kuntzendorf.

General de Ville has fixed his quarters at Furſtenſtein. The camp of the enemy is ſo ſituated that no attack can be attempted.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CV.

From the King.

MY DEAR GENERAL, July 25, 1759.

I RECEIVED your two reports of the 24th of this month, and was very glad to hear you had obtained ſome ſucceſs over the enemy.

I cannot comprehend in what manner general de Ville means to ſubſiſt his corps.

It is here affirmed you have cut the enemy off from his artillery; but this I can ſcarcely believe; not preſuming that De Ville had advanced without cannon.

Were I able, I ſhould be very glad to ſend you a reinforcement; but of this my preſent ſituation will not admit.

When you ſee general de Ville turning toward Reichenbach, you muſt endeavour to throw ſome battalions into the town of Neiſs.

I am, &c.

FREDERIC.

LET-

LETTER CVI.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Conradſwalde, July 26, 1759.

I THIS day took the camp between Conradſwalde and Friedland; that of Gotteſberg not being, by its ſituation, advantageous.

Our rear-guard was purſued by ſome hundreds of the enemy's dragoons, of whom and their horſes, our huſſars have taken about a dozen: they belong to the regiments of Albrecht and Arnheim.

Since De Ville has been near Furſtenſtein, he ſends out foraging parties, and ſubſiſts on the bread which the country is obliged to furniſh.

Information and intercepted letters, from their commiſſary, Aſtfeld, inform us that the tranſports muſt paſs through Jaromirz, Trautenau, and Friedland: as we have cut off this paſſage, he can expect nothing on that ſide.

Should De Ville find means longer to remain in his preſent poſt, and to ſubſiſt there, of which there is little probability, I ſhall be myſelf more embarraſſed than he is.

There are bread and flour ſufficient for the corps to the 9th of Auguſt. The military cheſt

is

is at Schweidnitz. As it has to-day been emptied of its contents, I entreat your majeſty would iſſue orders to the grand military cheſt to ſend me at leaſt fifty-thouſand crowns, for the half of the month of Auguſt.

The regiment of Moſel to-day marches, to join general Goltz, at Friedland. Should De Ville direct his route on the ſide of Reichenbach, general Goltz will detach this regiment through Glatz, to anticipate the enemy, and occupy Neiſs.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CVII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Conradſwalde, July 27, 1759.

THE convoys of De Ville having been impeded by us, he was this morning obliged to abandon his camp of Furſtenſtein, and re-enter Bohemia.

He endeavoured, with his whole corps, to penetrate this way, near Conradſwalde; but he was beaten, and obliged to retreat as far as Gotteſberg. The cannonade continued from ten in the morning till the evening. We have had about ſixty killed and wounded; but the enemy

have loſt more than four hundred men. We have taken ſome priſoners, the number of whom I do not yet exactly know.

The enemy's army has juſt ſtationed itſelf on the heights of Gotteſberg. I ſhall obſerve his proceedings, and take my meaſures accordingly.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CVIII.

From the King.

MY DEAR GENERAL, July 28, 1759.

I LEARNT, from your report of yeſterday, with much ſatisfaction, that you have driven general de Ville, who wiſhed to have taken your poſt, as far as Gotteſberg. I am much pleaſed that you have been thus ſucceſsful. You have only to ſend orders to major-general Krokow; and, in caſe the enemy ſhould attempt to paſs through Schœmberg, he will cover your rear. De Ville, I imagine, will endeavour to march to Friedland, ſhould he continue to find you in his road; it therefore would not be amiſs for you to ruin the roads he muſt take, that you may increaſe the difficulties of his march. You

may at leaſt engage advantageouſly with his rear-guard; for, ſince he will be obliged to paſs roads that have ſo many impediments, you may terribly incommode him with your artillery.

I am, &c.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CIX.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Conradſwalde, July 28, 1759.

GENERAL Jahnus, with the regiments Simbſchen and Preyſach, a battalion of grenadiers, two battalions of pandours, and four ſquadrons of Saxe-Gotha dragoons, endeavoured to-day to force a paſſage near Friedland.

As ſoon as I received this intelligence, I made an effort to reinforce general Goltz, with four battalions and four ſquadrons. Some dozen diſcharges of the artillery however were ſufficient to induce the enemy to retreat, nor did he think proper to return to the attack.

There is much probability that De Ville will find himſelf obliged to retreat through Braunau, where he will meet with very bad roads.

I am hourly ready for purſuit.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CX.

From the King.

The camp of Schmottſeiffen,
July 29, 1759.

YOUR report, my dear general, of the 28th, gave me much pleaſure.

You informed me that general Jahnus, being detached by general de Ville, endeavoured to penetrate near Friedland, and was properly repulſed by general Goltz.

I, like you, think theſe gentry have a wiſh to repair to Braunau; but, before they arrive there, I hope they will have loſt their cannon, and many other ſimilar trifles.

In this caſe, while they ſhall paſs the ruined roads, you cannot do better than to fall upon their rear-guard.

General Goltz may occupy ſome hills, at the bottom of which they will neceſſarily be obliged to march; thus will they, as it were, run the gauntlet.

I imagine that, in two or three days, you will be freed from them, and that you will be enabled to haraſs them moſt pitileſsly, before they are at their journey's end.

To-morrow I ſhall go to Sagan, and my brother, prince Henry, will come here; but I forbid you to mention this to any perſon.

I am, &c.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CXI.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Langen-Watterſdorf, July 29, 1759.

LAST night general de Ville ſent off his whole corps, and took his flight through Langen-Watterſdorf, and Reinſwalde; from which places, through circuitous roads and by private paths, he is gone to Johanniſberg, in the diſtrict of Braunau.

He ſent off his baggage the night before, and concealed his march ſo effectually that I was not informed of it till this morning.

I immediately marched with my troops to Gotteſberg. I ſent general Ramin, with ſeven battalions and four ſquadrons, through Waldenburg, toward Tannhauſen. I purſued the enemy myſelf, through Reinſwalde, as far as Langen-Watterſdorf, where we took ſome priſoners.

The haſte and the diſorder of the enemy's retreat

treat have occaſioned him to loſe many men, by deſertion; the number of priſoners, and deſerters, is in the whole about fifteen hundred.

I ſhall to-morrow retreat to Conradſwalde, and the day after ſhall march to Landſhut, with my corps; having firſt endeavoured to oblige general Wolferſdorf to decamp from Schatzlar, where he ſtill is poſted.

L. M. FOUQUET.

"ON the 30th of July general Fouquet aſ-
"ſembled his corps near Conradſwalde, once
"more to occupy the poſt of Landſhut.

"As the Auſtrian general, Wolferſdorf, re-
"mained at Kœnigſzeyn, near Schatzlar, with
"nine battalions of foot, and five ſquadrons of
"dragoons and huſſars, general Fouquet deter-
"mined to come upon him by ſurpriſe.

"On the 31ſt of July, at eleven in the even-
"ing, he ordered his corps to advance, and
"march againſt the enemy in three columns.
"The Auſtrians took to flight on his approach.

"The whole camp, almoſt all the baggage,
"money, horſes, and two hundred mules, be-
"came the prey of the Pruſſians. Near two
"hundred priſoners fell into their hands, and
"many of the Auſtrians were killed.

" After having ſo ſucceſsfully executed this " plan, general Fouquet encamped, with his " troops, at the poſt of Landſhut.

" The reinforcements he had received from " the army of the king, and from Neiſs, were " returned; and he was obliged to confine " himſelf to the defence of his poſt, as had been " ſtrongly recommended to him, by his ma- " jeſty.

" General Fouquet remained in that poſition " till the end of the month of October; during " which no remarkable event took place.

" His vigilance, and the wiſdom of his mea- " ſures, rendered all the enterpriſes of his ene- " mies, and the manœuvres they made to at- " tack him, wholly ineffectual.

" The king, in the interim, after the loſs of " the battle of Zulichau, fought by general Leh- " wald, againſt the Ruſſians, loſt himſelf the " dreadful battle of Cunnerſdorf; after which " he returned to the camp of Etſcher, and on " the 13th of Auguſt paſſed the Oder, at four " in the afternoon, to take poſt on the heights " of Rentwein, and Polentzig. On the 15th " he advanced further, and encamped at Mad- " litz, near Furſtenwalde.

" In this poſition he employed every reſource " of his genius, to repair the loſs of two battles.

" His

" His enemies ſupplied him with the means; " and, as ſoon as he was able to march, he en- " tered Luſatia, whence he paſſed into Sileſia, " and there obliged the Ruſſians to forego the " ſiege of Glogau, and to retreat into Poland; " as will be ſeen by the continuation of the cor- " reſpondence."

LETTER CXII.

From the King.

MY FRIEND, Linderode, near Sorau, Sept. 20, 1759.

MY brother has ſuffered twelve thouſand Auſtrians to paſs, who have joined the Ruſſians at Chriſtianſtadt. They intend to lay ſiege to Glogau, which I am on the wing to prevent; but I am weak, I have only twenty-four thouſand men, and men that have been twice beaten. You underſtand me.

I neither know where you are nor under what circumſtances; but, if you are able, ſend me aid. The men may march for Pridemaſt.

I will not ſuffer them to beſiege Glogau; I will rather fight, happen what may.

Such was the doctrine of ancient chivalry,

and ſuch is mine. I ſhall be beyond Sagan to-morrow, and the next day near Glogau.

A quick anſwer, my friend, and let the aid you ſend be equally ſpeedy.

Adieu; I embrace you.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CXIII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landſhut, September 22, 1759.

THE moſt gracious orders of your majeſty, dated the 20th inſtant, I have received.

On the ſide of the enemy there are, facing me, general Harſch, near Trautenau, and general Jahnus, near Schatzlar. They have an army that almoſt doubles mine, in numbers.

That I might preſerve the poſt of Hirſchberg, I have detached five battalions and four ſquadrons. Agreeable to your majeſty's orders, major-general Meyer will depart from Hirſchberg, to-morrow at day-break, with a battalion of Buddenbrock, two battalions of Kalkſtein, two ſquadrons of the Bayreuth dragoons, and two twelve pounders. He will haſten his march through Goldberg,

Goldberg, Haynau, and Bolkwitz, that he may, if poſſible, arrive in three marches, at Pridemaſt.

There will then remain, at Hirſchberg, one battalion of Le Noble, one battalion of Lattorf, and two ſquadrons of the Werner huſſars.

Prince Henry has of this corps reſerved to himſelf a battalion of Unruh, two ſquadrons of Bayreuth, and one ſquadron of Werner huſſars. The regiment of Moſel is at Neiſs.

Conſequently, there are fifteen battalions ſtill here, ſix ſquadrons of dragoons, and ſix ſquadrons of the Werner huſſars.

Your majeſty from this will perceive I am incapable of ſending a heavier detachment, if I mean to maintain my poſt.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CXIV.

From the King.

Bonau, September 25, 1759.

I IMAGINE, my dear general, that the three battalions and the two ſquadrons, which you have ſent me, under the command of general Meyer, as well as the ſix battalions and hundred

hundred huſſars that have been detached by my brother, will join the army to-morrow morning.

The news I have to tell you is that the enemy yeſterday marched between Freyſtadt and Neu Salze. He is arrived, with a large poſſe of Coſſacks, at Beuthen; and the Auſtrians, with their ten regiments of cavalry, are poſted oppoſite us, near a defile.

For my part, I have taken poſt near Bonau, and have paſſed the night under arms.

At day-break, I went to reconnoitre the enemy, and found the oppoſing generals were come on the ſame errand; after which they retreated ſlowly. In an hour's time, the enemy erected his tents, ſo that it would be in vain for me to expect an attack to-day. Should they hear that ſuccour is come in to-morrow, it may well be ſuppoſed there will be leſs probability that any thing remarkable ſhould happen.

With twenty-one thouſand men, your ill treated and beaten humble ſervant has prevented an army of fifty thouſand from attacking him, and has obliged it to withdraw for Neu Salze.

We have a good poſt here, but have only one line to guard it. Succour will arrive to-morrow.

LET-

LETTER CXV.

From the King.

The camp of Bonau,
Sept. 26, 1759.

YESTERDAY, my friend, was a critical period. The enemy had ſtruck his camp at Freyſtadt, on the 23d, and had advanced toward Neuſtædel. I immediately began my march, that I might poſt myſelf ſo as to interdict the paſſages of Neuſtædel and Beuthen.

The whole army, by which is underſtood twenty-four thouſand men, had taken its poſt the ſame evening at ſeven o'clock. The enemy had, as I had preſuppoſed, inclined in full force toward the defile of Rœhl and of Keltſch; the Coſſacks and huſſars, to the number of three thouſand, had marched to Beuthen; and, on the morning of the 25th, theſe troops were all in motion.

The generals came to reconnoitre us, and it ſhould ſeem our poſition appeared to them to be too advantageous; they had no inclination to run their head againſt the wall, for we ſaw them retreat, ſlowly, and encamp, with their left at Altſchau, and their right extending toward Rœhl.

Yeſterday evening, information was brought me that a heavy body of their troops was paſſing the Oder; but we ſee their fires ſtill burning.

The reſt of the army will arrive to-day, and I wait to hear news of the enemy, that I may determine on the moſt efficacious and leaſt hazardous means, of obliging theſe infamous incendiaries to quit the country.

I ſuſpect their plan is to avoid a battle, which muſt ſoon be known. In this caſe a partiſan war muſt follow, and that on both ſides of the Oder; ſo that we muſt fortify our camp well, that we may make detachments with impunity, and without riſk.

Such, my dear friend, is our ſituation at preſent; having ſome good troops with me, I am in no fear.

I had detached the beſt of my troops into Saxony; the campaign was about to finiſh at Guben, and the Ruſſians were intending to depart, when that infernal detachment of ten regiments, from the army of Daun, arrived. To this add ſome treachery; and from ſuch cauſes theſe wretches determined on the ſiege of Glogau.

I believe their project has failed at preſent; therefore the only queſtion is to ſave the open country, from the ruin with which it is threatened.

Yeſterday

Yeſterday this herd burnt two villages under our eyes, while we were unable to prevent the act.

In fine, I ſhall neglect nothing; and you may depend that every thing in my power ſhall be attempted, to put an end to this as ſoon as poſſible; but the thing is not ſo eaſy as may be ſuppoſed.

Adieu, my dear friend. I embrace you with all my heart.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CXVI.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landſhut, September 25, 1759.

TWENTY-ONE thouſand men and your majeſty make forty-two thouſand; to theſe add a reinforcement of nine battalions, and the whole will be equal to the fifty thouſand men of your enemies. Your majeſty has a good camp, and your magazine is at hand in your rear; there is therefore no probability that they ſhould attack you, but that they will be obliged to paſs the Oder, and retreat toward Poland, that they may approach their magazines.

In

In this caſe, Laudohn will leave them; which, on one ſide or the other, may procure your majeſty ſome advantage. Harſch has ſucceſſively detached battalions, with ſome Saxon cavalry, through Arnau and Hochſtædt, which eſcort convoys toward Saxony.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CXVII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landſhut, September 27, 1759.

I MOST humbly relate to your majeſty the intelligence I have juſt received, from Lœwenberg, Schmiedeberg, and Hirſchberg; which is that the corps of Beck has approached, from Bœhmiſch-Friedland; and the news has been confirmed by the deſerters.

Colonel le Noble, who keeps near Hirſchberg, with three battalions and two ſquadrons of huſſars, at the ſame time informs me that a corps of the enemy is arrived near Greiffenberg, and occupies a poſt at Bartelſdorf, beyond Hirſchberg,

I will therefore ſend colonel le Noble a reinforcement of a battalion. I ſhould weaken my own poſt too much, were I to detach more.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CXVIII.

From the King.

September 28, 1759.

I HAVE juſt received your letters, dated the 27th of this month. Affairs are at preſent in ſuch a ſtate that, while we ſtop up one hole, we inevitably make another.

Write me word however whether colonel le Noble has any cavalry with him.

My ſituation is ſuch, here, that I could ſpare five hundred horſe; but not a ſingle man from the infantry.

If theſe five hundred horſe can be of any ſervice to you, they ſhall be ſent.

You may inform colonel le Noble that, ſince he is near Hirſchberg, he will do well to write directly to me, that I may be the ſooner acquainted with what is paſſing, in thoſe parts.

I have no news to ſend you, for I have not yet made all my arrangements. I can ſay nothing at preſent, except that the two armies have ſo many defiles, before them, that they cannot do each other much injury.

I will make every poſſible attempt to endeavour to gain ſome advantage, over the enemy; but

but this I perceive will be a thing very difficult of execution.

The regiments of Laudohn are ſaid to have been three days without bread; but that would to them be a thing of ſmall conſequence, for they would only hew down ſo many more oxen.

I am, &c.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CXIX.

From the King.

September 28, 1759.

THE barbarians are ſtill facing me. I am preparing to play them an excellent trick, which, ſhould it ſucceed, will ſend them away flying.

I own I am very impatient to be rid of them; not becauſe of myſelf, but of the country which they ruin and burn.

I will ſend you word of every thing which paſſes here.

Inform me, my dear general, of your own ſituation; and of all that is tranſacting, on the ſide of Gœrlitz.

Adieu.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CXX.

From the King.

MY DEAR GENERAL, September 28, 1759.

I HAVE received news that general Beck, who was poſted with a corps, amounting from fifteen to eighteen thouſand men, near Marck-Liſſa, intends to march for Glogau.

Of this I ſend you information; and, not knowing whether there be any of the enemy's forces near Neiſs or no, inform you that you have only to call in the regiment of Moſel: you may then reinforce the poſt, on the ſide of Hirſchberg, with two battalions.

See further whether it be not poſſible to ſtop Beck. For my own part, having only ſeven regiments of cavalry, I cannot ſpare more than three hundred horſe, excluſive of the two ſquadrons which you ſent me.

In caſe general Beck ſhould wiſh to penetrate into your neighbourhood, you muſt endeavour to haraſs his baggage, to retard his deſigns.

You may well believe this new incident has greatly embarraſſed me, ſince it is impoſſible for me to make any detachment. It will therefore be the more neceſſary that you ſhould call

in the regiment of Moſel from Neiſs; which, happen what will, you may ſoon ſend thither again.

I muſt likewiſe ſend you general Meyer, with ſix hundred horſe, immediately to Hirſchberg; but, this general not being a man too well fitted for command, you muſt make him ſubordinate to ſome other.

Should general Beck already have paſſed, on his march to Glogau, ſend hither the corps that is at Hirſchberg, and I will endeavour to reinforce it, that I may thus induce general Beck to diſcontinue his purpoſe.

I hear that Beck means to march to Glogau. You can conceive what muſt be the conſequence; ſhould he come on my rear, while the others attack me in front, judge what muſt become of my army. Beck had only ten thouſand men at Zittau. I know not whether he have or have not been reinforced by Harſch.

I am, &c.

FREDERIC.

LET-

LETTER CXXI.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landshut, September 28, 1759.

GENERALS Harsch and Jahnus are still at Schatzlar and Trautenau. The detachment they have made, toward upper Lusatia, consists of the three regiments of Tuscany, Bayreuth, and Wurtzburg. Some reports say that they are to return; but, according to others, they have joined the corps of general Beck, which is posted in the vicinity of Bœhmisch-Friedland, whence he sends his patroles as far as Greiffenberg, and even farther, among the mountains.

This corps is composed of six thousand pandours, of the Luzani regiment of foot, of a battalion of volunteers, of two regiments of dragoons, of one regiment of cuirassiers, and of a regiment of hussars.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CXXII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landſhut, September 29, 1759.

I HAVE received your majeſty's orders, dated on the 28th of this month, the moment after I had ſealed up my preceding letter, to the contents of which I refer your majeſty.

As, without enumerating the flying parties of the enemy, diſperſed over upper Sileſia, there ſtill are, at Neuſtadt, Goldenſtein, and thoſe environs, ſix battalions of infantry and ſome cavalry, that are not further from Neiſs than from Glatz, I dare not call in all the regiment of Moſel, and have ſent only for a battalion.

However I immediately diſpatched general Goltz, with a battalion and two ſquadrons of dragoons, to Hirſchberg, that this poſt may be guarded by four battalions, and two ſquadrons of huſſars.

If your majeſty ſhall pleaſe to ſend, from your army, the two ſquadrons of Bayreuth, and one ſquadron of the Werner huſſars, that belong to this corps, there will be horſe enough.

General Goltz will endeavour to annoy the enemy,

enemy, on that ſide, as much as poſſible, and will make his reports to your majeſty.

L. M. FOUQUET.

I ſend the chaſſeur, who has delivered your majeſty's letter, to Hirſchberg, to general Goltz; from whence he may bring your majeſty more certain intelligence of the motions of the corps under general Beck. I am perſuaded he will have no deſire to penetrate further.

LETTER CXXIII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landſhut, Oct. 2, 1759.

I CONGRATULATE you on the departure of the Ruſſians, and there is great probability that the retreat of general Laudohn will coſt him dear.

According to advice from general Goltz, the corps of general Beck is at preſent near Marck-Liſſa and Gœrlitzheim. A deſerter, at Hirſchberg, has declared that the ſaid corps has received orders to hold itſelf in continual readineſs to march.

Your majeſty will find ſome intelligence incloſed, which I have juſt received by expreſs.

Though theſe meſſengers have ſome of them been at Trautenau, and in the very camp itſelf, their reports are notwithſtanding all different.

Should the news be confirmed that a corps of the enemy is to march toward upper Sileſia, I ſhall be equally embarraſſed, whether to ſend a reinforcement to Neiſs, or to cauſe three or four battalions to occupy the poſt of Wartha; for the foe may undertake ſome enterprize as well on the one ſide as on the other.

I ſubmit it to your majeſty either to keep or to return the three battalions you have drafted from my corps.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CXXIV.

From the King.

Zerbau, near Glogau, Oct. 3, 1759.

I HAVE received your report of the ſecond of this month, and will explain to you the whole project of the enemy.

Laudohn covers the march of the Ruſſians. As ſoon as the latter ſhall have paſſed, he will coaſt the frontiers of Sileſia, as far as Oppeln and Ratibor, to lay ſiege to Neiſs; and a corps will

will at the ſame time march into the province of Glatz, which will approach on the ſide of Weidenau, or on that of Jægerndorf.

To render this plan fruitleſs, I ſhall immediately ſend a body of cavalry to Coſel, to drive away the pandours that are there. This corps ſhall be followed by the three battalions which you have ſent me, and by ſix battalions that belong to my brother.

I think alſo to replace ſome battalions that you have with you, and the corps near Hirſchberg, by a corps from the remainder of my army. Thoſe troops that ſhall ſtill be in the vicinity of Landſhut, ſhall be under the command of major-general Goltz.

I will further give you the command of the corps in upper Sileſia, and I will march with about thirteen thouſand men into Saxony.

Should ſome of the troops of general Harſch hereafter approach Neiſs, Goltz may continue to make detachments toward Schweidnitz; but, with reſpect to yourſelf, you muſt wait till I can write more preciſely. Theſe are only my preliminary ideas.

My brother has himſelf written to me, on the 26th of the laſt month, to inform me that general Whela has been taken, and his whole corps entirely diſperſed, near Hoyerſwerda.

Laudohn is poſted here, in the country of Ratlau, behind woods and a triple defile.

The Ruſſians are filing off toward Poland. Six thouſand men and a part of their baggage have already entered that kingdom, and another corps of their army marches to-day; but I cannot yet determine what will be the length of their march.

The men whom I ſhall ſend you, into Sileſia, will in three days arrive near Breſlau; in ſix they will be at Neiſs, and in ſeven in the vicinity of Oppeln, to deſtroy the bridge, that the enemy may not paſs. In eight days they will attack and drive off the corps near Coſel, the garriſon of which place is not ſtrong enough to perform this ſervice without aid.

The detachment ſent hence to Hirſchberg ought to arrive there in three days, to relieve the battalions.

Send me a liſt of the regiments, and battalions, that are under your command, with all poſſible ſpeed.

I am your affectionate king.

FREDERIC.

Such, my dear friend, are the trifling deductions I have drawn, under preſent circumſtances. The enemy is my compaſs, according to which I muſt regulate my courſe. I imagine to-morrow,

row, or the day after at the lateſt, he will march for Poland. I will then poſitively inform you of the manner in which I mean to act. But, though new incidents may intervene, you muſt prepare to take upon yourſelf the command of the troops, in upper Sileſia; for you are the perſon moſt worthy to aſſume that command.

I ſhall directly detach from this place about nine complete battalions, ten ſquadrons of huſſars, and ten of cavalry. I ſhall afterward relieve the whole poſt of Hirſchberg, with my troops; and Goltz, by marching to Landſhut, will afford you a detachment of equal force, that will march to Neiſs; whence you may draw the regiment of Ramin, as ſoon as you ſhall begin to advance; ſo that you will have eighteen or nineteen battalions, with twenty ſquadrons of my army, excluſive of the cavalry I may leave at Hirſchberg, and at Landſhut; for I am deſirous that Werner ſhould be of the expedition into upper Sileſia; and, in order to replace him, I may leave Ruſch and Malakowſki at Landſhut.

I ſhall afterward march into Saxony, with about thirteen thouſand men. I have about thirty-nine thouſand here, ſo that I ſhall leave twenty-ſix thouſand in Sileſia.

Adieu, my dear friend.

LETTER CXXV.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landſhut, October 5, 1759.

THE commands of your majeſty, of the 3d of this month, have come ſafely to hand; and I wait your ultimate orders, to put the whole in execution.

Your majeſty will here find the liſt of this corps, according to which I enumerate fifteen battalions, at this place, including the free battalions, and a battalion of Moſel, that arrived yeſterday. There are four battalions at Hirſchberg, which together make nineteen battalions. Should your majeſty deign to think well of the plan, I will, in caſe I ſhould march, leave nine or ten battalions with general Goltz, to maintain this poſt.

While Harſch ſhall remain near Schatzlar and Trautenau, and the ſix battalions of the Auſtrians in the environs of Altſtadt and Goldenſtein, I ſhall be obliged to leave three or four battalions at Wartha.

The remainder with me, therefore, including the nine battalions from your majeſty, will amount

amount to fourteen battalions, with which I am to cover upper Sileſia.

General Werner (as well as his regiment) being beſt acquainted with all the diſtricts in upper Sileſia, is an exceedingly proper perſon to be appointed, by your majeſty, for this expedition.

General Beck has juſt directed his march toward Zittau.

It is affirmed that general Harſch intends to march toward upper Sileſia, and that Jahnus will wait a reinforcement, oppoſite this poſt; which intelligence has this day been confirmed by the report, here included, of the burgomaſter of Schatzlar.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CXXVI.

From the King.

October 6, 1759.

THE enemy I believe will march to-day, by which, according to all appearances, our apprehenſions will be relieved.

The Ruſſians will leave the road of Thorn; and the Auſtrians will march by Rawitz along the frontiers.

In

In this caſe, the following will be my diſpoſition. General Platen ſhall inſtantly march, with the regiment of Putkammer, ten ſquadrons of cuiraſſiers, and the battalion of Buddenbrog; in three days march he will be near Breſlau, and will halt on the 4th; on the 6th he will be at Lœwen; on the 7th a detachment will be ſent to Oppeln, to break down the bridge; and on the 8th the bridge of Kroppitz will be demoliſhed, and the pandours driven from Coſel.

Eight battalions, with twelve twelve-pounders, and generals Queis and Gablenz, will depart on the ſame day; will reach Langen-Oels in three marches; will halt the 4th day; on the 6th will be at Neiſs; and general Thiele will depart on that ſame day with five battalions of infantry, as will general Meyer with a regiment of dragoons, and general Malakowſki with the regiments of Ruſch and Malakowſki, which together amount to ſix hundred men. On the 4th day this corps will be at Landſhut, to relieve you. You may then take five ſquadrons of Bayreuth, the regiment of Werner, one ſquadron excepted, and the ſeven battalions, and in three days reach Neiſs.

No detachment muſt be made to Wartha; if you ſhould determine to ſend any forces thither, let it be a free battalion.

You

You may be at Neiſs in three days, with your ſeven battalions. You will paſs the river, and drive away the corps that is at Neuſtadt. Should Harſch ſend any detachment into upper Sileſia, Goltz muſt have a proportionate detachment for Neiſs. The five battalions, that I ſend you, may in any caſe hold the poſt of Landſhut, provided Jahnus only ſhall remain at Schatzlar.

As ſoon as Platen ſhall have driven away the gentry from Coſel, you may join your forces at Leobſchutz and Neuſtadt, or ſomewhere thereabout.

Laudohn will return by upper Sileſia, and Harſch will detach ſome of his troops to Lübow, in order to facilitate his operations. Should they then not find any perſon to oppoſe them, they will be ſtrong enough to undertake either the ſiege of Coſel or that of Neiſs. I ought to add that, ſhould Jahnus only remain near Schatzlar, you may avail yourſelf of the whole regiment of Bayreuth.

Your grand object is to anticipate Laudohn, which you may effect paſt diſpute; to deſtroy the magazines, if the enemy have formed any, at Troppau or at Jægerndorf; and to haraſs Laudohn as much as you can.

The corps of Laudohn amounts to eighteen thouſand men, conſiſting of ten regiments of horſe,

horſe, three of which are exceedingly feeble; twenty-ſeven battalions, five of which amount to a thouſand men; and the other regiments likewiſe of about a thouſand, with twelve hundred huſſars, and two thouſand croats. On this you may depend.

The Ruſſians and Laudohn, this morning, ſtill remain between Schlichtingſheim and Strauwaſſer. As ſoon as I ſhall learn that they are on their march, and are ſeparated, I ſhall ſend off my three columns, and give you notice; that, on the ſeventh day, you may be near Neiſs.

With reſpect to myſelf, as ſoon as I ſhall perceive this country is entirely cleared, I ſhall take the road for Bunzlau and Gœrlitz, to conclude the campaign near Dreſden.

In the mean time, this is all I have the power to do. Should Harſch make ſome detachment, fail not to ſend, according to an ample eſtimate, troops to Neiſs in a like proportion; for it is time to think on upper Sileſia.

Adieu, my friend. I embrace you with all my heart.

FREDERIC.

LET-

LETTER CXXVII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landſhut, October 7, 1759.

I HAVE juſt received the commands and diſpoſition of your majeſty, of the 6th of this month; according to which I ſhall take my meaſures.

Your majeſty, having reſerved a regiment of dragoons, and ſix hundred of the huſſars of Ruſch and Malakowſki, for general Goltz, which in my opinion will be ſufficient among the mountains and in the environs of Hirſchberg, is graciouſly pleaſed to permit the whole regiment of Bayreuth to join me; allowing me alſo to ſend for the two ſquadrons of Werner huſſars, which are with the detachment of major Seelhoorſt; a proceeding the more neceſſary, as general Laudohn is very ſuperior to me in cavalry.

A ſituation may occur which will occaſion me conſiderable embarraſſment.

Should Laudohn poſt himſelf in the vicinity of Coſel at the very time that I am advancing thither, and ſhould Harſch endeavour to penetrate near Weydenau and Zuckmantel, I ſhall then be obliged to ſend a detachment to Op-

perſdorf, or to fall back with the whole corps, that I may not be cut off from the magazine of Neiſs.

In this caſe, Laudohn would be maſter of that part of upper Sileſia.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CXXVIII.

From the King.

Sophienthal, October 9, 1759.

YOU do not conceive, my dear general, the preſent combination of affairs. Laudohn cannot paſs the Oder, except at Ratibor or at Oppeln.

The croats, it is ſaid, are collecting magazines on that ſide. Theſe magazines muſt be deſtroyed, or carried from the enemy; and the bridge of Oppeln and of Ratibor ruined, previous to the arrival of Laudohn. It is likewiſe neceſſary to drive away the beggarly troop, that give themſelves an air of blockading Coſel.

I have ſent five ſquadrons of huſſars to Breſlau. I have commanded them to go to Lœwen, to which place ſend Werner, inſtantaneouſly, with five ſquadrons of his regiment.

Inform

Inform him of mine and of the enemy's projects on upper Sileſia. Perhaps, with theſe ten ſquadrons, he may accompliſh the three following objects: that is, he may take the magazines, break down the bridges, and chaſe away the enemy, from the environs of Coſel.

With reſpect to myſelf, I can neither ſeparate my army nor make detachments, while the Ruſſians and the Auſtrians ſhall remain together.

They encamp between Mechau and Great Oſten, having Bartſch in their front.

I wait the moment of their ſeparation. The Ruſſians, in a few days, will be obliged to go to Poſnania, and Laudohn to gain upper Sileſia. I then ſhall detach infantry for Breſlau, and continually anticipate them in their projects.

My detachment for Landſhut may arrive there in three days. If, with this corps, you march immediately for Neiſs, and at Neuſtadt join the regiments which I deſtined for upper Sileſia, you will continually be able to haraſs Laudohn, at the paſſage of the Oder, or to fall upon his rear-guard. And ſhould Harſch detach, in conſequence, you will fortify, in proportion as the enemy ſhall fortify.

Recollect that, with about two thouſand five hundred huſſars and three thouſand five hundred dragoons, I have made head, during the

whole campaign, againſt ten or twelve thouſand light troops, ten regiments of Auſtrian cavalry, and the whole cavalry of the Ruſſians. Therefore, with twenty ſquadrons of cavalry and two good regiments of huſſars, you may in like manner make head againſt the cavalry of Laudohn; three regiments of which are totally ruined, and the others have moſt ſeverely ſuffered. You muſt be attentive to aſſume ground on which the cavalry will have little opportunity to act.

Laudohn has only about eight thouſand foot, and his forces daily diminiſh. They remain five or ſix days in want of bread, and will be obliged to make a very heavy march, which will at leaſt coſt them three thouſand men, by deſertion. Add to this, theſe troops are afflicted with the dyſentery; and that, conſequently, weakneſs and bad proviſions will oblige Laudohn to return, with all the ſpeed he can, into Moravia.

Therefore, far from figuring to yourſelf great detachments, imagine a new career of glory opening to your view.

On which I pray God to take you into his holy keeping.

FREDERIC.

LET-

LETTER CXXIX.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landſhut, October 10, 1759.

IN obedience to your majeſty's orders, of the 9th of this month, I early to-day detached general Werner, with five ſquadrons of his regiment, and inſtructed him in all which it was neceſſary he ſhould obſerve.

He will haſten his march to Lœwen as much as poſſible, and there will join the five ſquadrons that come from Breſlau, and endeavour to execute his expedition, according to the commands and intention of your majeſty.

L. M. FOUQUET.

Here, as with you, ſire, there is abſolutely nothing new paſſing.

Harſch and Jahnus ſtill keep the ſame poſition, at Schatzlar and Trautenau.

They cauſe it to be reported that they intend to march toward upper Sileſia, but at preſent not a man is in motion.

As ſoon as they ſhall be on the march, I will inſtantly ſend off the three battalions deſtined for Neiſs, and will follow them immediately, af-

ter the reinforcement from your majeſty ſhall arrive.

General Beck ſtill remains in the vicinity of Zittau.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CXXX.

From the King.

October 26, 1759.

THE enemy, my dear Fouquet, yeſterday marched to Bajanowa and Rawitz. Laudohn and the Ruſſians are ſtill together; notwithſtanding which, I ſhall to-day ſend off the detachment, which on the 29th will be at Landſhut.

Major-general Thiele marches to-day, with his five battalions, the huſſars of Malakowſki, and major-general Meyer with the regiment of Platen; paſſing the bridge near Kœber to Rauden, on the 27th they will be at Liegnitz, on the 28th at Ronſtock, and on the 29th at Landſhut.

If you could march on the evening of the 29th with the infantry, Werner and Bayreuth might follow you, by forced marches. You might

might then proceed with little noiſe to Reichenbach; that is to within two miles of Landſhut; and, on the 31ſt of this month, you might march to Neiſs.

My nine battalions are at Trachenberg, whence I ſhall ſend them immediately for Brieg; and I imagine they will be five days on their march.

Laudohn marches through Kaliſch and Czenſtochow. I ſhall keep pace with him as far as Wartenberg; to which purpoſe I ſhall ſend off five ſquadrons of cuiraſſiers. As ſoon as Laudohn ſhall be at a diſtance from that country, we will march directly through Brieg to Lœwen.

I know not how it happens that Laudohn is informed of the march you make; it is not from us that he has heard it: I have not too good an opinion of your ſecretary: as the enemy employs ſo much treachery, pay ſome attention to his conduct, recollecting that we are at a criſis, when it is neceſſary to be continually diffident.

As ſoon as you ſhall arrive at Neiſs, you will firſt receive reports from generals Queiſs and Gablenz, who are there with the infantry, as well as from Podjurſki and Schmettau.

Sixteen battalions are as many as you will want. I have cauſed the bridge of Oppeln to be broken down, and I know Laudohn has ſaid—"Should general Fouquet be before me, on the

"ſide of Coſel and Ratibor, I ſhall paſs the "Jablunkau."

Should theſe operations bring things to the point of rendering it impoſſible for the enemy to undertake any ſiege in Sileſia, you perhaps may inflict on them a part of the evil which they have done us here, in burning and pillaging. There would be no great harm, therefore, in burning Jægerndorf, and ſome villages in thoſe environs, on the other ſide of the Oppa, which will prevent them from keeping ſo many troops on our frontiers.

FREDERIC.

I am ill, my dear general, which prevents me from writing to you with a certain degree of connection, on all theſe affairs. I rely on your abilities.

Laudohn ſhould be fourteen days on his march to Oppeln, and fifteen to Ratibor; whence you perceive you will always be able to be much before him.

I embrace you with all my heart.

FREDERIC.

LET-

LETTER CXXXI.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landſhut, October 27, 1759.

I HAVE juſt received your majeſty's orders, of the 26th of this month, and have learnt that general Thiele will arrive here, on the 19th, with five battalions and the huſſars of Malakowſki, and general Meyer with the regiment of Platen.

I ſhall depart, on the ſame evening, to march toward Neiſs. It is thirteen miles from the place where we are to that town. I ſhall haſten my march as much as poſſible; but, as ſome ſnow has fallen, and as it rains every day, I do not think I can reach Neiſs before the 31ſt. I will be as near it however as I can.

General Schenkendorf relieves general Goltz, at Hirſchberg, in order that Goltz may take the command here.

Four battalions will remain at Hirſchberg, and Goltz will have twelve here; including thoſe of general Thiele, the huſſars of Malakowſki, and the Platen dragoons.

With reſpect to the corps of general Queiſs,

the nine battalions that are to go to Lœwen, and the cuiraſſiers of Schmettau, with the huſſars of Podjurſki, according to the news which I receive from Neiſs concerning the march of Laudohn, we may form a junction in the vicinage of Oppeln, Krappitz, or Coſel.

I have not the leaſt ſuſpicion of the imprudence of my ſecretary, whom I believe to be reſerved and diſcreet; but general Werner ſpread a report that a corps of eight or ten thouſand men were on their march, toward upper Sileſia, which I imagine may have given riſe to the conjectures of Laudohn.

The pillaging and burning, that have been committed, are attributed to the Ruſſians; nor have we hitherto any conviction of the guilt of the Auſtrians.

Permit me, ſire, to venture to ſpeak my opinion.

I imagine that, in repriſal for a place like Jægerndorf, and ſome villages, we ſhall loſe ten times more, in upper Sileſia, in the county of Glatz, and in the whole extent of the mountains.

I wiſh, ſire, moſt ſincerely wiſh, that you may immediately be relieved from the pains of the gout, with which your majeſty is incommoded; nor have I any doubt of this, provided

vided your majeſty can ſecure yourſelf from the cold.

L. M. FOUQUET.

It is above two months ſince captains Steiner and Watteville, of the free battalion of Lüderitz, had an affair of honour together, in which the firſt had the misfortune to be wounded.

Having been exceedingly improperly treated, during his illneſs, he died on the 10th day, which obliged captain Watteville to take refuge at Kœnigſgrætz.

As Watteville is a very worthy and brave officer, full of zeal for your majeſty's ſervice, I venture, ſire, to take the liberty to requeſt his pardon; and, if your majeſty ſhall think proper to appear ignorant of the tranſaction, I can induce him to return.

For which I wait your majeſty's commands*.

* The anſwers of the king, to this and to ſome following letters, are wanting.

LET-

LETTER CXXXII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Neiſs, November 1, 1759.

ON my arrival here, I received the gracious letter of your majeſty, dated the 31ſt of the laſt month.

I find myſelf obliged to ſuffer the corps to reſt to-morrow, and to provide it with bread, forage, and other ſubſiſtence.

The day after to-morrow I ſhall continue my march, according to the commands of your majeſty, and ſhall endeavour in three days to be at Breſlau.

L. M. FOUQUET.

I am delighted, ſire, to underſtand you are recovered. As to the weakneſs in your legs, that will ſoon be overcome.

LET-

LETTER CXXXIII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Hundsfelde, November 5, 1759.

I HAVE this day departed, with my corps, for Olau. I have paſſed Breſlau and the Oder, and fixed my quarters here, near Hundſfelde.

General Schmettau has ſent me intelligence that Laudohn has retired ſtill further into Poland, and that there is nothing to fear for Militſch; for which reaſon I ſhall march my corps toward Wartenberg, and leave general Schmettau at Militſch, poſting ſome battalions and ſome ſquadrons in the midway, near Goſchutz.

I ſhall thus find myſelf more ready to obſerve the motions of general Laudohn, and to keep pace with him along the frontiers, ſhould it be his intention to advance further toward upper Sileſia.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CXXXIV.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Oels, November 9, 1759.

ON my arrival here, on the 7th, I immediately ſent my vanguard forward, as far as Wartenberg.

As I have juſt received advice that general Laudohn is decamped from Zduni and thoſe environs, on his march for Kaliſch or Czenſtochow, having left ſome cavalry and Coſſacks at Salmirſchutz, oppoſite this place, I ſhall this morning march through Brieg beſide the Oder, and through Coſel, and ſhall poſt myſelf in the environs of Gros-Strelitz, or of Toſt, and thus endeavour to anticipate the enemy. General Schmettau will remain, with the half of the corps, in the vicinity of Oels, as long as the enemy ſhall continue ſtationed oppoſite to him, and will follow as ſoon as circumſtances will permit.

L. M. FOUQUET.

Marſhal Daun very properly teſtifies the attention and reſpect which are your majeſty's due, ſince he already begins to retreat to ſo great a diſtance. I wiſh your majeſty health and good fortune.

LETTER CXXXV.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Coſel, November 20, 1759.

AS it appeared to me to be the intention of general Laudohn directly to take the road of Beuthen and Tarnowitz, through the county of Pleſſe, I have poſted on the frontiers of theſe diſtricts ſome dragoons and huſſars, and ſome grenadiers at Tarnowitz. I have ſtationed myſelf, with the remainder of the infantry, in the environs of Coſel, that I may be ready to act.

Laudohn has found himſelf thus obliged to direct his march to Czenſtochow and Cracau; and it is preſumed that he will proceed through Zipſerland, in Hungary. However I have detached general Werner, with his huſſars and two hundred foot of the regiment of Alt-Sidow, for Troppau, to make an excurſion thither.

On the 18th, he there ſurpriſed the garriſon, which conſiſted of cavalry and croats, and drove it out of the town, making a hot purſuit. A hundred and eighty men were killed, eleven officers and three hundred and eighty-four ſoldiers made priſoners, and eighty horſes were taken:

taken: the beſt of them have been ſelected, and diſtributed among the dragoons and huſſars.

Three officers and a hundred and ſeventeen ſoldiers, of the priſoners, were ſo dangerouſly wounded that they could not be removed, and were obliged to be left at Troppau, in caſe of a reverſe of fortune. Our whole loſs conſiſts in three dead and eleven wounded.

I have at the ſame time ſent colonel Bülow, with ſix ſquadrons of dragoons and three ſquadrons of huſſars, toward Czenſtochow; and another party likewiſe to Biala and Bielitz. Theſe are not yet returned.

As ſoon as I ſhall be maſter of theſe diſtricts, I ſhall ſee what can further be undertaken.

I have left general Schmettau, with five battalions, the regiment of Schlaberndorf, and four ſquadrons of huſſars, in the environs of Militſch and Trachenberg, there to impede the ravages of the enemy.

As I am juſt informed that the Ruſſians again extend themſelves along the frontiers, and are making new incurſions, I have written to general Goltz, to reinforce general Schmettau with the regiment of Ramin.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CXXXVI.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Ratibor, December 8, 1759.

GENERAL Laudohn decamped on the 20th of laſt month from Czenſtochow, and marched toward Cracau. Colonel Bülow was detached thither, and on the 21ſt arrived at Czenſtochow, where he took eight priſoners and ſome baggage, with the medicinal army-cheſt; and purſued the enemy above a mile.

Major Roſenkrantz, of the regiment of Werner, made at the ſame time an excurſion to Kent, Biala, and Bielitz, where he found much of the enemy's baggage.

According to advice received, that Laudohn intended to go from Cracau to Bielitz, I ſent colonel Bülow with the dragoons, and major-general le Grand with two battalions of grenadiers, to the vicinity of Beron and Pleſſe; and to ſupport them I likewiſe ſent general Ramin, with two battalions, toward Loſlau.

On the 27th, Laudohn attempted to penetrate near Oſwienczien and Gottſchallkowitz, where he was repulſed by colonel Bülow and general le Grand. The latter, on the 29th, drove off

the advanced poſts of the enemy, from Dziedzitz and Czechau, between Pleſſe and Bielitz, and took two priſoners.

When the Auſtrians filed off, on the left, the ſaid detachments followed them, on the right.

On the 30th, I marched with ſix battalions to the neighbourhood of Ratibor, there to hold myſelf in readineſs; and, for this reaſon, I cauſed the bridge over the Oder to be repaired.

The ſame day, the corps of the enemy again attempted to penetrate, near Pleſſe; but was again repulſed, by general Werner.

The intention of general Laudohn was to proceed through the dutchy of Teſchen, into Moravia; there to take up his winter quarters.

General Draſkowitz, in order to cover his march, was poſted along the frontiers, with twelve battalions; which alſo occupied Haltſchin and Beneſchau, near the Oppa, on this ſide of the frontiers.

On the 6th, both places were attacked at the ſame time, each by two of our battalions; the garriſons were expelled, a great number of men were killed, and an officer and ſixty-ſix privates were made priſoners.

General Laudohn is at preſent in the environs of Teſchen; and, according to the intelligence we have received, muſt have loſt, by deſertion,

during

during his march through Poland, more than four thouſand men.

As he is at preſent making arrangements to take up his winter quarters in Moravia, I ſhall by degrees form a chain, with the corps, ſimilar to that of laſt year.

L. M. FOUQUET.

"THE campaign of 1759 was terminated, in "upper Sileſia, by an agreement, between ge- "neral Fouquet and general Laudohn, in which "they mutually regulated the manner of guard- "ing the frontiers.

"The Auſtrians entered into winter quarters "in Moravia, and formed a chain along the "frontiers, extending from Gruliſch to Bielitz.

"The corps of general Fouquet covered the "frontiers of upper Sileſia, and took up its win- "ter quarters, as in the preceding year, in the "country between Neuſtadt and Ratibor. The "general quarters were fixed at Leobſchutz.

"On the 18th of January 1760, general Fou- "quet marched, at the head of eight battalions "and eight ſquadrons, and departed from Leob- "ſchutz for Lœwenberg.

"He ordered general Schmettau to advance,

" who was then poſted with a detachment near " Lauban, as far as Goerlitz. The command " of the forces that remained in upper Sileſia " was committed to general Goltz; and gene- " ral Schenkendorf continued, with ſome troops, " in the poſt of Landſhut.

" Theſe different parties, all under the com- " mand of general Fouquet, found no oppor- " tunity of diſtinguiſhing themſelves, during the " winter. Nothing remarkable paſſed before " the month of March, when general Laudohn " made an ineffectual attack on the garriſon of " Neuſtadt, but was repulſed by general Goltz, " who on that occaſion diſtinguiſhed himſelf in " a very remarkable manner.

" The correſpondence between the king and " general Fouquet was diſcontinued, or at leaſt " has not been made public, till the month of " June, the two following letters excepted, in " the firſt of which the king very graciouſly " conferred the provoſtſhip of the cathedral " church of Brandenburg on the general. The " practice of rewarding military men with " church livings was very common, under this " king's reign, and the practice is ſtill con- " tinued."

LET-

LETTER CXXXVII.

From the King.

Freiberg, April 22, 1760.

THE provoſtſhip of the cathedral church of Brandenburg being now vacant, and at my diſpoſal, by the death of the late prince Maurice of Anhalt, I take this opportunity to prove how highly I am ſatisfied with your zeal, and unalterable attachment to my ſervice.

This is the motive which induces me to confer on you the benefice in queſtion, with all its annexed privileges, rights, and revenues; in conſequence of which I have iſſued the neceſſary orders to the miniſter of ſtate, baron Dankelmann.

But, as there is an article to regulate, concerning a capital of twelve thouſand crowns, which the late king my father ſecured to the ſaid prince Maurice, on the funds of this benefice, to be reſtored to his heirs by his ſucceſſor, as prince Maurice was himſelf obliged to reſtore to the heirs of Grumbkow, when the ſaid benefice devolved on him, you muſt make previous ſtipulations with the heirs of the prince, relative to this article; eſpecially as the above-mentioned

capital will be in like manner ſecured to your future heirs, as you may convince yourſelf, from the order I have given, on this ſubject, to the miniſter of ſtate, Dankelmann.

I ſincerely wiſh you may enjoy this benefice as many years, at leaſt, as it was enjoyed by the late marſhal Grumbkow.

On which I pray God to take you into his holy keeping.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CXXXVIII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Lœwenberg, April 27, 1760.

YOUR majeſty ſeems to have made it a rule to overwhelm me with wealth, notwithſtanding the little deſire I have for riches; and, to increaſe my embarraſſment, you make me an eccleſiaſtic.

I ſhould acquit myſelf as ill of the functions of this profeſſion, were I obliged to officiate, as of the part of Arbates *. I ſhall however con-

* One of the characters in the tragedy of Mithridates, by Racine. The alluſion here is to the theatrical repreſentations, which were a part of the pleaſures of the king, during his reſidence at Rheinſberg.

ſole myſelf, provided I can but have the ſatiſfaction of equalling your wiſhes, during the war, and of aiding the good fortune of your majeſty; to effect which I would moſt willingly ſacrifice the provoſtſhip, the chapter, and my life.

I am not in any manner embarraſſed, concerning the reſtitution of the twelve thouſand crowns, for which your majeſty has but too effectually provided.

L. M. FOUQUET.

"AT the beginning of May, prince Henry "repaired with a body of troops near Sagan; "and on the 7th of the ſame month had an in- "terview with general Fouquet, at Kitlitzreben, "not far from Buntzlau.

"On the 10th, general Fouquet received the "king's orders to obſerve general Laudohn, and "to keep pace with him, on his march along "the Bober and the Oder to Franckfort, ſhould "he attempt to turn on the Brandenburg ſide, "or to defend Schweidnitz and Breſlau, ſhould "he enter Sileſia.

"General Laudohn having extended his "forces along the frontiers, toward Landſhut, "in the county of Glatz, general Fouquet aban- "doned Lœwenberg on the 28th of May; and,

" on the 30th, marched with his corps to the " environs of Frœlichſdorf and Furſtenſtein, " there to obſerve the motions of general Lau- " dohn.

" Fifteen battalions in reſerve remained in " the vicinity of Lœwenberg and Lauban, to " join the army of prince Henry.

" General Schenkendorf was poſted near Land- " ſhut, with ſome battalions, ſubject to the or- " ders of general Fouquet.

" Laudohn had arranged his corps, in two " lines, near Franckenſtein; one of which ex- " tended from Tarnau to Grochau, and the other " from Zodel to Baumgarten.

" By this, general Fouquet found himſelf in " the utmoſt embarraſſment.

" He foreſaw how neceſſary it was that the " poſt of Landſhut ſhould be maintained; not " only to defend the paſs which leads to the " circle of Kœnigſgrætz, through Trautenau " into Bohemia, but alſo to prevent the ſiege of " Glatz; while, on the other ſide, the king " wiſhed his firſt care ſhould be to defend the " fortreſſes of Breſlau, Schweidnitz, Glogau, " and Neiſs.

" His corps was too feeble to attend to theſe " different objects.

" General Fouquet could not, at the utmoſt,

" leave

" leave more than five battalions at Landſhut;
" which evidently were in danger of deſtruc-
" tion, ſhould he be at too great a diſtance.

" By a ſingle march, Laudohn could be at
" the gates of Schweidnitz; and in two marches
" it was equally eaſy for him to arrive at Breſ-
" lau, before general Fouquet.

" In this perplexity, he wrote to prince
" Henry, who ſtill remained poſted near Sagan,
" to ſend a detachment on the ſide of Freiburg,
" in order to maintain the poſt near Landſhut.

" The required detachment not arriving, ge-
" neral Fouquet ſaw himſelf obliged to call in
" general Schenkendorf, with his battalions,
" from Landſhut; and on the evening of the
" 4th of June, to quit Frœhlichſdorf, and fix
" his camp near Würben.

" On the 5th, general Laudohn left Franck-
" enſtein, with his corps divided into two co-
" lumns; one of which ſtationed itſelf near
" Nimtſch, and the other near Reichenbach.
" General Draſkowitz directed his march toward
" Franckenſtein.

" This induced general Fouquet to depart
" from Würben on the 6th of June, at two
" o'clock in the morning, in order to cover
" Breſlau, and to encamp near Romenau; after

" having ſent general le Grand forward, as far " as Opperau.

" General Laudohn, ſeeing his project on " Breſlau thus rendered ineffectual, quitted " Nimtſch on the 7th, and retired by Silber- " berg into the environs of Glatz.

" General Fouquet, at the head of the grena- " diers and free battalions, followed; paſſing by " Canth, Jordanſmühle, Nimtſch, and Reichen- " bach; and, after having taken two lieutenants " and ſeventy-five dragoons, from the enemy's " rear-guard, as he retreated among the moun- " tains, Fouquet, on the 10th, encamped near " Grœditz.

" Being then informed that two regiments of " dragoons, two regiments of huſſars, the regi- " ment of Laudohn grenadiers, and a party of " croats, of the corps of the Auſtrian general, " Nauendorf, had poſted themſelves near Kleitſch, " between Reichenbach and Franckenſtein, he " on the night of the 13th marched, with ſix " battalions and eight ſquadrons, to ſurpriſe " this poſt; but his project having come to the " knowledge of the Auſtrian troops, they, in " great haſte, retired to Silberberg; ſo that not " above ſixty priſoners, and a hundred and " twenty horſes, were taken.

" As

"As ſoon as general Schenkendorf had quit-
"ted the poſt of Landſhut, the firſt act of the
"Auſtrians was eagerly to ſeize on it, their prin-
"cipal object being to capture Glatz.

"They made the neceſſary preparations for
"the ſiege, and occupied the paſs near Wartha,
"as well as thoſe paſſes that lead to the moun-
"tains. Here they threw up ſo many intrench-
"ments, and abatis, that a ſmall army would
"vainly have endeavoured to relieve Glatz, on
"that ſide.

"Thus circumſtanced, general Fouquet
"thought it more prudent to cover the for-
"treſſes of Breſlau and Schweidnitz, and to
"ſhelter the open country from the incurſions
"of the enemy, than to endeavour to recover
"the poſt of Landſhut, which he doubted his
"ability to defend, with ſo ſmall a corps, againſt
"the numerous armies by which it was ſur-
"rounded.

"He adviſed the king to ſend a detachment
"into Sileſia, with the utmoſt ſpeed; and, if
"poſſible, to make a diverſion toward Kœnigſ-
"grætz.

"The king was diſpoſed to repair thither in
"perſon, but was perhaps prevented by acci-
"dents. In the mean time, he ſent expreſs
"orders to general Fouquet again to render
"himſelf

" himſelf maſter of, and to maintain, his poſt " near Landſhut.

" The following letters complete the narra- " tive of theſe expeditions."

LETTER CXXXIX.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Grœdlitz, June 16, 1760.

I YESTERDAY evening received your majeſty's orders, of the 11th of this month, in conſequence of which I ſhall depart to-night for the expedition of Landſhut.

Jahnus is reinforced by the regiments of foot of Königſegg and Leopold Palfy, which yeſterday arrived from Glatz, with ſome cuiraſſiers and huſſars.

I hope fortune will ſecond our efforts; though, ſhould the enemy do his duty, ſucceſs will be very doubtful.

I have no intelligence from D'O; he is ſo incloſed on every ſide that no meſſenger can paſs, and thoſe who have made the attempt have been immediately hanged.

The deſerters affirm that the artillery, which

ſhould come from Prague and Olmutz, is not yet arrived; and that, in the mean time, they have prepared a great number of ladders, for the general aſſault.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CXL.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landſhut, June 17, 1760.

I YESTERDAY departed, at ten in the evening, from the environs of Schweidnitz, for the expedition of Landſhut, with the major-generals Schenkendorf, Malakowſki, le Grand, and colonel Roſen: followed by four battalions of grenadiers, four battalions of muſketeers, three battalions eleven ſquadrons of huſſars, and four ſquadrons of dragoons. I have left general Ziethen, with the reſt of the troops, in our former camp, and have ordered him to follow us, on the morrow, and to take poſt on the Zeiſkenberg.

At ten o'clock this morning we arrived at Landſhut. The following is a liſt of the enemy's troops, that occupy this poſt:

1 regi-

1 regiment of Kœnigſegg.
1 —— of Simbſchen.
1 —— of Preyſach.
1 —— of Forgaſch.
1 —— of Broder croats.
1 —— of Peterwardein croats.
1 battalion of Platz.
1 —— of the archduke Joſeph.
1 regiment of cuiraſſiers of Modena.
1 —— of dragoons of the archduke Joſeph.
2 regiments of huſſars.

Generals Gaiſrug, St. Ignon, Jahnus, and Gourci, were at the head of theſe forces. The attack was made on three ſides, and the fire of the artillery and the ſmall arms did not ceaſe till four o'clock in the afternoon. The enemy, retiring from one redoubt to another, was at length obliged to abandon his poſt.

I have taken care to garniſh the heights, on which the enemy had almoſt ruined all the redoubts.

Our priſoners amount only to one captain, two lieutenants, and about fifty ſoldiers. The reaſon of this is the great number of the enemies troops, by which their retreat was perfectly covered.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CXLI.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landſhut, June 19, 1760.

THE corps which we on the 17th of this month obliged to quit the poſt of Landſhut, has ſtationed itſelf on the heights near Reich-Hennerſdorf; which, as your majeſty knows, are inattackable.

It was yeſterday reinforced by the corps of general Wolferſdorf; and again to-day by a detachment from the corps of Laudohn..

I have attempted to diſturb them, by the fire of the artillery and howitzers, but with little ſucceſs.

A new detachment, from the troops of Laudohn, has been ſeen arriving near Friedland, and has advanced to Hartmannſdorf and Witgendorf, on the Ziegen-Rücken. I might eaſily attack and repulſe this corps, had I no fear that the troops which are now near Reich-Hennerſdorf ſhould occupy my poſt.

Your majeſty having various times commanded me not to quit my preſent poſt, I will pay exact obedience to theſe orders, and defend myſelf to the laſt extremity.

My

My proviſion of bread, flour, and forage, will ſerve me to the end of the preſent month. I have left general Ziethen and colonel Kleiſt on the Zeiſkenberg, to cover the paſs that leads to Schweidnitz, with four battalions and two ſquadrons of huſſars, one of which is now in garriſon, at Freiberg. This corps however is very much expoſed, in its poſt; conſidering that preſent circumſtances diſable me from ſending any ſuccour thither, if I mean not to riſk being too much weakened myſelf. The troops of Beck advanced, on the 14th, as far as Friedeberg, and Greiffenberg.

It is pretended that the artillery which was expected from Olmutz is arrived, and is at preſent near Glatz. In obedience to your majeſty's orders, general le Grand yeſterday departed for Neiſs, with a ſquadron of the Alt-Platen dragoons. Conſequently I have only generals Schenkendorf and Malakowſki, and colonel Roſen with me.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LET-

LETTER CXLII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Landſhut, June 21, 1760.

I HAVE no doubt but your majeſty has received my two reports, of ſimilar contents, of the 19th.

According to your majeſty's commands, I have again taken poſſeſſion of the poſt of Landſhut.

Oppoſite to me are the corps of Gaiſrug and Jahnus; and, on the right as well as on the left, thoſe of Wolferſdorf and Nauendorf, to whom Laudohn carefully ſends daily ſuccours.

Chained in ſome manner to a ſpot, I dare not hazard the leaſt change of poſition; for I am ſo near the enemy that we fire at each other with ſmall arms.

All communication with Schweidnitz and with general Ziethen, on the Zeiſkenberg, I am cut off from, by the corps of Nauendorf, which is ſtationed between us; and I preſume that general Ziethen will be obliged to quit his poſt, and to retire to Schweidnitz.

I have no fear that I ſhall want bread, forage, or pay for the ſoldiers, before the end of the month.

In

In this ſituation, I ſhall endeavour to ſupport myſelf to the laſt extremity, and ſhall wait for the diverſion to be made by your majeſty.

I am unable to learn what is paſſing at Glatz. General Zaſtrow will inform your majeſty of whatever intelligence can be obtained, on this ſubject; and will only wait your orders, to arrange the neceſſary proviſion of bread.

L. M. FOUQUET.

"ON the 21ſt, general Laudohn himſelf arrived, at the head of a conſiderable army, in the environs of Landſhut, and fixed his head quarters at Schwarzwalde.

"According to a liſt found among the papers of general Fouquet, the Auſtrian army collected in this neighbourhood, to attack the poſt of Landſhut, conſiſted of forty battalions and ſeventy-ſeven ſquadrons, amounting in the whole to thirty-four thouſand men. At the head of this corps, excluſive of the grand maſter of artillery, Laudohn, were ſix lieutenant-general camp-marſhals, and thirteen major-generals.

"The whole Pruſſian corps, which was to defend the poſt of Landſhut, conſiſted of no more than fifteen battalions and fourteen ſquadrons;

" drons; inſomuch that, according to the liſt " of this corps on the day of battle, it only " amounted to two hundred and fifty officers, " five hundred and thirty ſubalterns, eight thou- " ſand four hundred infantry, and one thouſand " five hundred horſe; in the whole, ten thou- " ſand ſix hundred and eighty men.

" To defend the poſt of Landſhut, againſt an " army of thrice the number, was paſt diſpute a " very dangerous project.

" The heights muſt neceſſarily be garniſhed. " The extent of the camp conſidered, its ſafety " could be but feebly provided for; conſequent- " ly there were intervals of ground, of two thou- " ſand paces and more, that were left unde- " fended.

" General Fouquet neglected nothing to re- " eſtabliſh, with all poſſible ſpeed, the works " which the enemy had demoliſhed. He cauſed " a line of ſix hundred paces to be drawn, from " the Mumel-Schanze to the Leuſchner-Berg.

" To defend this line, eight battalions at leaſt " were neceſſary; and he had only two to ſtation " there.

" On the evening of the 22d of June, a " hundred carriages were ſent to Schweidnitz, " through Bolkenhayn and Freiburg, for a ſup-

" ply of flour. The battalion of Armin, and
" major Lutz, at the head of two hundred horſe,
" had orders to take poſt in the environs of Ruh-
" bank and Einſiedel, to cover this convoy.
" Motions were obſerved in the army of the
" enemy which gave intimation of an intended
" attack.

" On the nights of the 22d and the 23d there
" were very heavy rains.

" In the vicinity of Hartmannſdorf, and on
" the roads that lead from Forſt, the noiſe of
" carts and baggage waggons was heard; and
" the Auſtrian deſerters moreover affirmed that
" the enemy was on the march, to begin the aſ-
" ſault.

" They further aſſerted that general Laudohn
" had cauſed a great quantity of brandy to be
" diſtributed among the ſoldiers, to inſpire them
" with courage.

" Four mortar-grenades thrown up, and burſt-
" ing in the air with a loud exploſion, were the
" ſignal of attack, which was made on both
" wings at once.

" General Laudohn, with ſixteen battalions
" and twenty-four ſquadrons, aſſaulted the left
" wing of the Pruſſians, which was commanded
" by colonel Rozen, and conſiſted of the bat-
" talion of Woberſnow grenadiers, the ſecond

" battalion

" battalion of Fouquet, the battalion of Moſel,
" the battalion of Mellin, and three companies
" of the firſt battalion of Fouquet.

" Theſe troops made a moſt vigorous reſiſt-
" ance, and ſuſtained a very violent fire from
" the artillery and howitzers; when the regiment
" of Laudohn chaſſeurs, ſuddenly forcing their
" paſſage between the Leuſchnerberg and the
" redoubt named Rotkretſcham, overthrew the
" battalion of Mellin, and fell on the rear of the
" ſecond battalion of Fouquet, which was at the
" ſame time attacked in front by ſome bat-
" talions of grenadiers.

" A column of the enemy, of eight battalions,
" commanded by general Müffling, advanced
" under the Riegel, on the road from Forſt,
" toward the Mummelloch, made an effort and
" paſſed the line which general Fouquet had
" drawn, and took the battalion of Moſel in
" flank and rear, and drove it as far as Buch-
" berg, and to the gates of the town of Landſ-
" hut.

" Another column of the enemy, of eight
" battalions, commanded by general Gaiſrug,
" inclined toward the Mummelberg and Buch-
" berg. Theſe places were defended by three
" companies of the firſt battalion of Fouquet,
" and the battalion of Woberſnow grenadiers.

" In vain did the Pruſſian troops make the " moſt courageous reſiſtance; they ſaw them- " ſelves obliged to cede to the ſuperiority of " the enemy, whoſe loſſes were continually re- " cruited by new reinforcements.

" At the moment when the battalions on the " left wing gave way, the battalion of Arnim " and major Lutz with two hundred and fifty " horſe arrived, according to the orders of gene- " ral Fouquet. Colonel Roſen, though much " wounded, placed himſelf at the head of the " battalion of Arnim, to march to the aid of " that of Moſel; but he found himſelf ſo diſ- " turbed, by the fire of the artillery and the " muſketry, that he was obliged to retire with " much loſs.

" General Malakowſki cut his road, ſword in " hand, through this crowd, at the head of his " dragoons and his huſſars, and retired to the " heights on this ſide the Bober. Major Hofen, " with the reſt of the battalion of Mellin, threw " himſelf into the redoubt on the Thimberg, " near Rothkretſcham, where lieutenant Bud- " berg was poſted, with a platoon of the ſecond " battalion of Fouquet.

" This redoubt was preſerved while the left " wing of the Pruſſians was contending; but, " being repulſed, and the enemy meeting with

" no

" no impediment, major Hofen and a part of
" his men were killed, and the remainder were
" taken.

" The ruins of the battalions of the left wing,
" moſt of which had loſt their commanders,
" ſtationed themſelves on the Kirchberg; where
" before were poſted a battalion of the margrave
" Henry, and two companies of the firſt bat-
" talion of Fouquet.

" The right wing of the Pruſſians, command-
" ed by general Schenkendorf, and conſiſting of
" the battalion of Sobeck grenadiers, the free
" battalion of Borck, and the two free battalions
" of Le Noble and Colignon, was attacked by
" the Auſtrian generals Wolferſdorf and Jahnus,
" with ſixteen battalions and thirty ſquadrons.
" Notwithſtanding the ſuperiority of the numbers
" of the enemy, this attack continued above two
" hours; but the Auſtrians at length incloſed
" the right wing, and made themſelves maſters
" of the heights.

" General Fouquet, perceiving that the bat-
" talions poſted on the hills of Blaſdorf were at-
" tacked in the rear, detached major Koſchen-
" bar, with the half of his battalion, to do as
" much for the enemy. But major Koſchen-
" bar was killed, and the remainder of the bat-

" talion, like the other battalions, ſaw itſelf " obliged to retreat.

" The troops of the Pruſſian battalion of the " left wing, that had been vanquiſhed, aſſembled " near the redoubts where the other part of the " battalion of Koſchenbar was ſtationed, with " three companies of Braun.

" General Fouquet, having formed theſe " troops, placed himſelf at their head, charged " the Auſtrians, carried two pair of colours and " a ſtandard, and made them retreat as far as " Reich-Hennerſdorf, where they committed " their defence to the diſcharge of their artillery " and bombardment.

" The enemy, ſeeing it was uſeleſs to attack " the front of the right wing of the Pruſſians, " detached the regiment of Simbſchen, with " ſome battalions of grenadiers and a very heavy " body of horſe, to paſs the Bober beyond Blaſ- " dorf, with an intent to cut off all retreat from " the Pruſſians. The general therefore found " it neceſſary to ſend major Owſtin, with three " ſquadrons of huſſars, on that ſide, in order at " leaſt to ſecure a paſſage over the Bober.

" While the action gradually cooled on the " right wing, it became more violent on the " left.

" The enemy advanced, in two columns, by " the

" the village of Zieder, and through the town,
" in which there were only ſixty men as a gar-
" riſon, and inclined to the Kirchberg, where
" the remainder of the battalions of the left wing
" was ſtationed.

" In the mean time, the greateſt part of the
" Auſtrian cavalry, and ſome battalions of grena-
" diers, paſſed the Bober, to cut off the retreat
" of the Pruſſians.

" The enemy's column, which advanced in
" the environs of Zieder, and which formed the
" left wing of the attack, was received, from the
" high redoubts of the Kirchberg, with ſo hot a
" fire, of cannon and muſketry, that it found it-
" ſelf obliged to retreat, through the ſame village,
" with great loſs.

" But the other column, which formed the
" right wing of the attack, croſſed the town,
" and paſſed through the proteſtant burying
" place, to advance at all riſks toward the
" Kirchberg.

" The battalion of Bülow volunteers, detach-
" ed from the Galzenberg to the Kirchberg, to
" the ſupport of the troops there poſted, at firſt
" repulſed the enemy, but it was turned and
" obliged to cede.

" The enemy profited by the opportunity,
" and ſeized on one of the redoubts on the

" Kirchberg, by which he was enabled to take " the battalion of the margrave Henry in flank, " as well as the other battalions that were drawn " up on the ſame ground. Twelve cannon, " which the Auſtrians had planted on the Zie- " gelberg, increaſed the violence of the ſhock, " by an uninterrupted fire.

" The column of the enemy which had been " repulſed recovered breath, and again advanced " toward the Kirchberg; ſo that the brave Pruſ- " ſians were once more obliged to yield to num- " bers.

" To cover their retreat, they kept up an un- " interrupted fire, according to the rules they " had obſerved on review days, under the inſpec- " tion of the king. They gained the Galgen- " berg; and, the ſhorteſt road which leads to " the Bober being cut off, they joined the corps " of general Schenkendorf.

" General Fouquet then, deſpairing of the " preſervation of the poſt of Landſhut, ſent his " adjutant Winanco, captain of the engineers, " to general Schenkendorf, with orders to re- " tire, and paſs the Bober with his troops.

" Winanco was killed, by a bullet, as he was " returning to his general; and the adjutant- " general, lieutenant Fouquet, was ſent with " like orders to general Schenkendorf.

" The general in chief, in the mean while, " ſent ſome of the troops, that he had collected " of the free battalions, beyond the Bober, to " drive the croats from the houſes they occu- " pied, and to ſecure the paſſage.

" He ſoon followed himſelf, with the remain- " der of the battalion of Bülow volunteers, and " a company of Braun, intending to gain the " heights of Reiffdorf, with the remainder of " the battalions.

" General Fouquet, having paſſed the Bober " and the village of Lepperſdorf, formed a " ſquare with the above-mentioned troops, and " was immediately attacked, on three ſides, by " the Auſtrian cavalry.

" Animated by the example of their chief, " who was well determined on ſelf-defence, and " to ſell his life or liberty dear, the Pruſſians " more than once repulſed the Auſtrians; and " would probably have cut themſelves a road " through the enemy's ſquadrons, had not a bat- " talion of grenadiers ſuddenly come up, and " with its rapid fire reinforced the attack of the " cavalry.

" General Fouquet, who calmly gave his or- " ders amid the fire, and whoſe valour would " have become the moſt glorious victory, had

" at

" at this time his horſe killed under him, and he " fell.

" The enemy then immediately forced the " ſquare. In vain did ſome ſoldiers collect round " their general, who was thrown from his horſe; " the dragoons of Lœwenſtein maſſacred all " by whom he was ſurrounded. He himſelf " had already received three wounds with the " ſabre—in the forehead, on the elbow, and on " the back; and was evidently at the moment " of death, when Trautſchke, his faithful atten- " dant, threw himſelf upon his body, to parry " the blows that were levelled at him, repeatedly " crying, with all his might—' Will you then " kill the commander in chief?'—His cries " reached the ear of colonel Voit, of the regi- " ment of Lœwenſtein, though at a diſtance; " and he ran and diſperſed the dragoons, and " raiſed the general, covered with his blood. " The colonel immediately ſent for his parade " horſe, to offer the general.

" Fouquet preſented his ſword to the colonel, " but refuſed to mount the horſe. ' I am in dan- " ger, ſaid he, excuſing himſelf, of ſullying this " fine furniture with my blood.'

" Colonel Voit, full of eſteem for his priſo- " ner, replied—' My horſe furniture will be " embelliſhed, if ſpotted by the blood of a hero.'

" In

" In fine, after reiterated entreaties, general " Fouquet mounted the horſe, and bore with " him his fortitude, and the aſcendancy of hero- " iſm, into captivity.

" General Schenkendorf aſſembled the re- " mainder of the corps, according to the orders " of general Fouquet, and began to retreat be- " yond the Bober; but, his horſe being killed " under him, he in his turn fell into the power " of the Auſtrians, by whom he was ſurrounded.

" The troops nevertheleſs continued their " retreat, in all poſſible order, under the com- " mand of major Arnim, continually defending " themſelves againſt the reiterated attacks of " the enemy.

" Arnim fortunately gained the heights of " Reiſdorff; but, as he puſhed forward toward " the foreſt, he ſaw himſelf ſtopped by a line of " cavalry that was poſted in a valley near Reiſ- " dorff. Some battalions of grenadiers ſoon came " up, and the combat recommenced. It was im- " poſſible for the ſmall Pruſſian troop to with- " ſtand their aſſailants; and thoſe who did not " fall in the conflict were taken priſoners.

" General Malakowſki, who defended himſelf " beyond the Bober againſt the enemy's cavalry " that had ſurrounded him, encountered the " ſame fate. He long reſiſted, but was at length

" obliged to ſurrender; as were lieutenant-co-
" lonel Papſtein, major Bonin, and a party of
" dragoons and huſſars.

" Major Owſtin was the only perſon who,
" ſword in hand, cut his way through the enemy,
" with the remainder of the Pruſſian cavalry.

" Thus, of the whole corps of Fouquet, only
" about ſeven hundred foot, and a thouſand dra-
" goons and huſſars, eſcaped; and theſe aſſem-
" bled near Gauer, to retreat to Breſlau: the reſt
" remained ſtretched on the field of battle, or
" were taken.

" Thus ended the affair of Landſhut, after
" having continued from half after one in the
" morning till noon.

" The victory was very advantageous to the
" Auſtrians, who now ſaw themſelves in poſſeſ-
" ſion of an adverſary by whoſe valour their
" projects had ſo often been defeated. But he
" had coſt them dear: they owned themſelves
" to the loſs of nine thouſand men, killed and
" wounded; and their commanders, loudly and
" univerſally, did juſtice to the conduct and in-
" trepidity of general Fouquet.

" The king was on his departure from Sax-
" ony, to bring him a reinforcement, when he
" was informed of his defeat, and ſaid to the ge-
" nerals preſent—' Fouquet is taken; but his

" captivity

" captivity is as honourable to himſelf as it is to " us. He has defended himſelf like a hero.'

" The court of Vienna refuſed to releaſe ge- " neral Fouquet before the peace, which refuſal " was to his glory. His captivity however was " not the leſs ſevere; nor was it ſoftened by " any mean ſubmiſſion, of which the dignity of " his character rendered him incapable. He " was ſent to diſtant places, and finally to Carl- " ſtadt, where he had a violent fit of ſickneſs, " which very conſiderably injured his conſtitution.

" At the concluſion of the peace, the empreſs " ſent major Blankenfeld to invite him to Vi- " enna, and gave him to underſtand he might " there enjoy all poſſible diſtinction; and, ſhould " he pleaſe, might recover his effects, jewels, " and very valuable engravings, which had been " taken at the ſurrender of Glatz, by which the " general had been a great ſufferer. This offer " was politely refuſed: he ſpoke of the empreſs " with the moſt profound reſpect; but added, " It is impoſſible for me to kiſs the hand that " has ſtruck ſo unfeelingly.

" The general entirely relied on the king; " and on the 15th of April 1763 repaired to " Glatz, where he received the moſt unequivo- " cal marks of the kindneſs of his majeſty.

" The remainder of the correſpondence is

" deſcriptive

" deſcriptive of the attention of the king to ge-
" neral Fouquet, and of the reſignation of the
" general, during the decline of his health."

LETTER CXLIII.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, July 21, 1763.

I SEND you the ſo long expected ſervice of plate, which at length is finiſhed. May you, to your great ſatisfaction, live to employ it for many years.

I beg you will let me know the ſtate of your health. I have a great inclination to ſend Cothenius * to you, that you may take good remedies, and not drugs that are of no ſervice. But I wait your anſwer, aſſuring you of my ſincere and perfect friendſhip.

Adieu.

FREDERIC.

* The king's phyſician.

LET-

LETTER CXLIV.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, July 25, 1763.

I HAVE loſt nothing by having waited. Far from that, your favours, your benefits, as well as the beauty and magnificence of the ſervice of plate which your majeſty has ſent me, greatly ſurpaſs my expectations.

A hundred times do I reflect, and ſay to myſelf—"Why and from what motives does this "great king, this man, this dear and worthy "monarch, heap his bounties on me thus? And, "more than theſe, why has he, for more than "thirty years, honoured me with uninterrupted "friendſhip?"

Pardon the expreſſion, ſire, but I know none of ſuch worth, or ſo glorious to me: my vanity is too much flattered by it; but my mind is bewildered, and I can diſcover no other reaſon which can make me attribute to myſelf all theſe acquiſitions. For, ſire, notwithſtanding the knowledge you poſſeſs of the characters of men, you never can penetrate the receſſes of my heart. But theſe feelings alone muſt conſole me, and be

be as a ſubſtitute; I not having any means of proving the ſincerity of my ſentiments.

My health, ſire, is good, ſince I do not feel any pain. I ſleep tolerably well, and my appetite is paſſable, thanks to the chocolate and the bark of your majeſty, to which I attribute theſe effects. This is the ſmiling ſide of the picture; and, in oppoſition, my legs, my hams, my lungs, and my voice, are diſordered by the leaſt agitation.

I am no longer good for any thing; nor am I fit for aught but the life of a canon, and eaſe. To crown your favours, ſire, ſuffer me to enjoy this for the remainder of my days. I will ſing hymns to your glory, and pray for the proſperity of your incomparable perſon, to the laſt moment of life.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CXLV.

From the King.

July 30, 1763.

THAT the preſent I have ſent you ſhould be agreeable to you was the end and purpoſe, my dear general, of my wiſhes.

Why

Why ſhould you be aſtoniſhed that I ſhould love you? You ought rather to wonder, were I not to love an officer of reputation, an honeſt man, and what is more my old friend.

I wiſh your health were entirely reſtored. Nor I confeſs do I yet deſpair. You muſt take care of yourſelf; keep yourſelf at your eaſe, and ſuffer tranquillity, herbs, and the bark, to reſtore your ſtrength.

Remain at Brandenburg as long as you pleaſe, except coming ſometimes to ſee me. The diſtance is not great; and, when I know it is your intention to come, I will ſend my horſes to meet you half way.

Adieu, my dear friend. I am yours in heart and ſoul.

FREDERIC.

P. S. My ſiſter of Sweden and all her family are here.

LETTER CXLVI.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, October 4, 1763.

I SEND you a large glaſs, which I have lately found, at Berlin, as part of the ſucceſſion

of my father. I wiſh it may amuſe you for a moment.

I hear not a word concerning you, except from ſtrangers, who paſs through Brandenburg. Have you forgotten me; or will you do me the pleaſure to come and ſee me, when it will be no inconvenience to you?

, my dear friend.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CXLVII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, Oct. 6, 1763.

I HAVE defects with which I am acquainted, without being able to correct them; but the ſin of ingratitude is a ſin unknown to me.

Let your majeſty therefore judge whether it be poſſible I ſhould forget my auguſt benefactor. No; I do not believe an hour in the day paſſes in which I do not think, with all poſſible ſenſibility, of my obligations to your majeſty.

I return you thanks, ſire, for the fine glaſs which you have ſent me; it will embelliſh my buffet, in company with thoſe which I found at Glatz.

Cold,

Cold, which I formerly preferred to heat, no longer agrees with me. I have been troubled with the colic during three days, from having walked in the open air, and eaten ſome fruit. I cloſe up and liſt every aperture in the houſe, to preſerve myſelf from the cold; and I paſs condemnation on the doors and chimneys, in order that your majeſty ſhould no more be expoſed to draughts of air, in the chamber in which you lodge, ſhould you ever paſs through Brandenburg. I requeſt the favour of a diſpenſation from your majeſty during the cold weather.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CXLVIII.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, December 2, 1763.

I SEND you ſome Turkiſh coffee, given me by a Mamamouchi. You would entirely forget me, did not I remind you of myſelf. For this I ſhall ſoon have a new opportunity, which I ſhall eagerly ſeize.

Adieu, my dear friend. Preſerve a corner in your heart for me.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CXLIX.

From General Fouquet.

Brandenburg, December 6, 1763.

GREAT God! What a man haſt thou beſtowed upon us! The government of his ſtates, his army, his Turkiſh trade, his palaces, and a thouſand other cares, the conduct of Europe and Aſia, committed to him: theſe all are nothing, and cannot afford him ſufficient employment; he ſtill muſt think of ſending me coffee! Why, ſire, can you not govern the whole world, and ſee no end to your labours?

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CL.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, December 16, 1763.

FIVE thouſand crowns are conſigned over to you, now lying in the hands of Buchholtz, treaſurer of the *hof-ſtaats-caſſe* *, which you may

* Or of the court.

draw

draw for whenever you pleaſe; theſe will ſerve to pay a part of your debts to the heirs of prince Maurice, for your houſe at Brandenburg.

Health to you, my friend. Take care of yourſelf, that I may have the pleaſure of ſeeing you again at Sans-Souci.

Adieu. I embrace you.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CLI.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, December, 22, 1763

PRINCE Maurice and his heirs have long ſince been paid. To heap wealth thus upon me is a waſte of treaſure. You have, in your bounty, put me in poſſeſſion of an income more than enough to ſupport me honourably. Permit me, ſire, to enumerate my riches. I have nineteen thouſand crowns placed in the Landſchafft at Berlin, &c. &c and, to increaſe my embarraſſment, five thouſand crowns more in ready money, of which I can make no uſe, unleſs your majeſty ſhoul do me the favour to place them in the ſame Landſchafft, and to lighten inſtead of increaſe my load. You have moreover furniſhed

niſhed my houſe like a prince. This is more than remuneration for all which the devil detains in his clutches, I mean the Auſtrians; nor have I merited ſo many proofs of your bounty.

Do not, ſire, be angry with me, for entreating you to limit your pecuniary donations, and to remain perſuaded that the aſſurances which your majeſty gives me of your ineſtimable friendſhip, and even your bag of coffee, are to me infinitely preferable to all the thouſands of ſilver, or of gold, you could offer.

I am inviolably, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CLII.

From the King.

April 10, 1764.

I AM returned, my dear friend, from Sileſia and Glatz, where I found every thing better than I expected.

I have there met with porcelain, which I ſend you, as a remembrance of me, till I can preſent to you ſome of the porcelain of my Berlin manufactory.

Thoſe perſons who have ſeen you tell me that you

you look well, but that you are feeble. I have ſtill ſome Rheniſh wine, of the growth of the year 1684; if you wiſh to have ſome of it ſend me word, and it ſhall be at your ſervice. I have alſo ſome old Hungarian wine. Speak but the word, and ſome of it is yours.

Let me know when you mean to come to ſee me, for this I ſtill expect.

We are labouring, body and ſoul, at preſent, to reſtore affairs to ſome order: they begin to be in a train; and I own I take ſome pleaſure in once again perceiving a reform in that army which I formerly knew to be ſo good, which I have beheld ruined by bloody wars, and which, like a phœnix, revives from its aſhes.

Adieu, my good and dear friend. I love you with all my heart. Of this, and of the eſteem I have for you, reſt perſuaded.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CLIII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, April 12, 1764.

I TAKE all imaginable part in the ſatiſfaction which your majeſty has received, from

your journey into Sileſia; which indeed is entirely due to the conduct you obſerved there, during the war, and the good arrangements you have made, ſince the peace. One or two harveſts like the preceding will recover the country, and the people will ſpring up as faſt as the corn.

My opinion, relative your army, ſire, is that two years will not only put it on a good footing, but that it will even ſurpaſs, in intrinſic valour, that of its firſt campaigns; ſince we were then all apprentices, and learning our trade; whereas three fourths of the preſent army have made war, and you have formed many officers.

I am penetrated, ſire, by your gracious remembrance of me, in ſending me porcelain, which I think infinitely beautiful. I wiſh it may be equalled by the manufactory of Berlin, not being able to imagine it can be ſurpaſſed.

Thoſe perſons who informed you of the ſtate of my health judged exceedingly well. Seated, or at table, I have a good appearance; but my body, my legs, and my voice, ſeem to me to weaken continually. I have an inclination to begin to take whey and green herbs, on the 10th or the 15th of May, for three weeks. Diſpoſe of me, ſire; do you determine whether I ought to enjoy the happineſs of throwing myſelf at your

feet

feet before or after my cure, or even without taking my remedy.

Since I am to chooſe between old drugs, I think I ſhould prefer the ancient oxicrate of the Rhine to the hippocras of Hungary.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CLIV.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, April 18, 1764.

I SEND you ſome of the vinegar of the Rhine, according to your requeſt. I wiſh it may increaſe your ſtrength, and recover your health. I will not interfere with your uſe of whey, for I ſuppoſe our exerciſe and all our military paraphernalia no longer affect you.

I intend to come and ſee you, on my return from the reviews at Magdeburg; after which I ſhall tranquilly retire to my habitation of Sans-Souci. Should you then wiſh to come and ſee me, you will give me pleaſure. We ſhall be alone, undiſturbed by company, nor will you be under any conſtraint.

Do not ſpeak with contempt of my porcelain manufactory.

manufactory. My china is more beautiful than that of Meiſſen; but the china-houſe will not be entirely finiſhed, with its twelve ovens which are building, before the month of September. This prevents us from working in wholeſale at preſent. More beautiful china however is made there than ever was imagined at Meiſſen. Of this I will give you ſpecimens, as I paſs; and by autumn we ſhall have whole ſervices, with every thing we could wiſh.

Adieu, my dear friend. Do not forget the abſent, eſpecially me, for I love you tenderly.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CLV.

From the King.

April 21, 1764.

AFTER having inſulted my porcelain manufactory, I am obliged, my dear friend, to do it juſtice. I ſend you a breakfaſt ſet, as beautiful as any that ever was made at Meiſſen; and you will at the ſame time receive a cup, with painted figures, which will convince you that our workmanſhip is at leaſt equal to that of Saxony. We are waſting our powder, here, on the ſparrows.

The weather is cold, but it does not prevent us from continuing our train.

Adieu, my dear general. I wiſh you health, content, and long life.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CLVI.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, April 22, 1764.

NOTHING is more humiliating than to be under the neceſſity of retracting. Coſt what it may, however, I feel myſelf ſufficiently above this falſe ſhame, being likewiſe naturally inclined to ſincerity and truth, to find any repugnance to the acknowledgment of my errors; I therefore declare in favour of the porcelain manufactory of your majeſty; as well becauſe of the relief of the work as the vivid colours of the tea ſet, which are ſuperior to any I have ever ſeen of Saxony. As for the moſaic cup, I imagine I diſcover in it the pencil of Watteau, it is ſo charming.

Your majeſty has a talent peculiar to yourſelf, ſince, inſtead of puniſhing the raſhneſs of my doubts, I find them rewarded by this beautiful preſent.

Were

Were it not from the fear of being a ſecond time puniſhed, I ſhould perhaps make another reflection, and ſhould enquire whether the expert artiſts of your manufactory may not reſemble thoſe mechanics who are ſucceſsful only in their ſmall models.

You have, no doubt, ſire, added half a year to my life, by having ſent the oxicrate, which I ſhall take medicinally.

I am much affected by ſo many benefits; and what mortifies me moſt is the impoſſibility of proving my gratitude, and of teſtifying the reality of my zeal for your majeſty, and the attachment and fidelity I have for your perſon.

Live, ſire, for the good of the ſtate and your own glory. Diſcipline, manœuvre your men, and ſometimes ſuffer yourſelf to be a little in a paſſion; for all theſe things will contribute to your health, according to the ſyſtem of the late old fox*.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

P. S. Your majeſty will be very welcome at Brandenburg, and will find the pot of a refugee boiling at noon.

* Prince Leopold of Anhalt.

LET-

LETTER CLVII.

From the King.

April 27, 1764.

I AM charmed with your confeſſion, my dear friend, of the goodneſs of my porcelain. We only wait till the building be finiſhed to work in the great. This cannot take place before Whitſuntide, at which time there muſt be ſix large ovens to bake the china; ſo that the work will not really be in train before the middle of September. Some large pieces have already been made, in the two furnaces that we have, which have ſucceeded very well; but we have received orders from Ruſſia and Holland, to execute which we are labouring with all ſpeed.

I at preſent keep five hundred and ſeven perſons employed in the manufactory. Nothing ſtops us but the want of ovens; and this obſtacle will be removed by the month of September.

You imagine, my dear general, I am as paſſionate now as formerly; but in that you are deceived. I have mixed water with my wine; and though, indeed, I correct whatever is defective in diſcipline, I do not put myſelf the leaſt

out of temper. Whatever relates to the common ſoldier will next year be in as much order as before the war; but my greateſt attention is paid to the officer. That officers may become vigilant in the ſervice, hereafter, and that they may form their judgments, I cauſe them to be taught fortification; add to which, endeavours are made to oblige them to reaſon on whatever they have to do.

You will perfectly perceive this method cannot be generally ſucceſsful; but, from the multitude, ſome good officers may be obtained, who ſhall not be generals merely by commiſſion, but really poſſeſs the qualities of the general.

Adieu, my dear friend. I will inform you when I can come to Brandenburg. I embrace you with all my heart.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CLVIII.

From the King.

June 1, 1764.

THE reaſon I do not write to you myſelf, my dear friend, is that I have the gout in my left hand. Perhaps you may anſwer I may guide

guide the pen with my right, but the paper ſlips away, and I would not fatigue your eyes with a cat's ſcrawl.

This accident, which has happened to me very unſeaſonably, has prevented me from reviewing the regiments of Pomerania and the New March; and has obliged me to defer the review of the regiments of Magdeburg two days.

I ſhall viſit you like an old friend, without ceremony, as I paſs through Brandenburg. I ſhall be there on the 4th at noon. I ſhall bring with me one friend only, who is well worthy of your friendſhip and eſteem; therefore, if you think proper, we three only ſhall be preſent.

You muſt make no great proviſion for me; all I aſk is a good ſoup, a plate of ſpinach, a hearty welcome from my hoſt, and to find you in good health. The laſt article is what I recommend moſt to your care.

Adieu, my dear friend. I hope I then ſhall aſſure you of my whole eſteem.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CLIX.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, September 26, 1764.

THE proverb ſays the deareſt things are the ſweeteſt. If ſo, I have reaſon to ſuppoſe your majeſty, after having been jolted over the alps of Sileſia, muſt be exceedingly well ſatisfied with your journey. I wiſh you never may, ſire, and have good reaſon to ſuppoſe you never will, make the tour of your provinces, without recollecting the labour which the glory of the conqueſt of them has coſt you.

May you, ſire, taſte repoſe, if any there be for you! May Sans-Souci preſent its excellent fruits to you! Pleaſe to accept my thanks for the care with which Krutiſch* has provided for me, during your abſence.

Continue in good health, ſire; and may all your enterprizes be proſperous.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

* The king's head gardener.

LET-

LETTER CLX.

From the King.

September 26, 1764.

I AM exceedingly ſenſible of thoſe ſentiments of attachment which you are kind enough to renew, in your letter of to-day, on occaſion of the agreeable journey which I have made into Sileſia.

I have found things in a tolerably good ſtate, and am only ſorry to have ſeen your ſon-in-law* there in a very lingering condition, which gives reaſon to apprehend he will ſoon ceaſe to live.

On which I pray God to take you into his holy keeping.

FREDERIC.

P. S. I am now returned, my dear general. I may ſay of my œconomical and military journey, that, though I have not found all things equally well, all at leaſt is paſſable.

* Colonel Nimſcheffſki.

LETTER CLXI.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND. October 19, 1764.

I HAVE received the Perigord pie from Brandenburg*. I kept it to know whether you would not come and eat part of it. I am alone; if the journey will not incommode you, and if you are not detained by other reaſons, it only depends on yourſelf to pay a ſhort viſit to your friend.

Poor Nimſchefflki, who was a good and worthy officer, is lately dead. I am ſorry for it; but we ſhall ſoon travel after him, into a country from which no one returns.

We have practiſed ſome manœuvres, which have in part ſucceeded. The officers of rank are not yet ſufficiently formed. Some years more will be neceſſary, to wind up the machine

* The king was fond of truffles, and annually ſent for a Perigord pie. General Fouquet had brought ſome dogs from Croatia, that had been taught to un-earth truffles; and ſome were found in the neighbourhood of Magdeburg and Halberſtadt, which were equal to thoſe of Italy; of which the general had a pie made, in imitation of the Perigord pies, and ſent it to the king, who thought it very good.

to

to its ancient degree of tenſion. I however am growing old; and I ought rather to think of greaſing my wheels, for the great journey, than of exerciſing troops that, according to all appearances, I never more ſhall lead againſt an enemy.

Adieu, my dear general. Health, content, and good humour, are what I moſt cordially wiſh you.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CLXII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, October 22, 1764.

THE return of my ſervant informed me too late of the honour your majeſty deſigned me, at noon; not to mention that I found an impediment to my going thither in the hemorrhoides, with which I am troubled, and which I am endeavouring to remove. The gracious commands of your majeſty allow me to allege theſe reaſons.

Let me entreat you to grant me the enjoyment of that repoſe, and warmth, which are requiſite for my valetudinarian ſtate of health, during this ſeaſon of the year; that I may, if poſſible, not too haſtily follow colonel Nim-

ſchefſki, in whom you have loſt a very worthy and good officer. Not that I fear death; but I have no objection to enjoy, for a time, that tranquillity and thoſe ſweets which your bounty has procured me. Theſe are doubly agreeable, from learning, as I do, that your majeſty is in good health, which I attribute to your daily walks.

May you plant elm-rows, and fifty years in ſucceſſion build colonnades and palaces; after which may you mount, in the chariot of Elijah, immediately to paradiſe.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CLXIII.

From the King.

October 26, 1764.

REMAIN by your fire-ſide, my dear friend, ſince heat is ſalutary to you. Preſerve yourſelf; that is your firſt duty: and afterward, when you have nothing better to do, think occaſionally on your abſent friend.

I can well conceive you muſt ſenſibly feel the loſs you have ſuffered. Your ſon-in-law was young, he had eſcaped all the dangers of a bloody war, and now is dead at the moment when

when he was to have reaped the reward of his ſervices. This is afflicting; but we muſt ſay like the Lacedemonian woman, who was told that her ſon had been killed in battle—"I knew "when I brought him into the world he was not "immortal." A little ſooner, or a little later, to this we muſt all come: ſuch has been the fate of preceding generations, and ſuch muſt be ours. While however we are in the world, it is but juſt to enjoy when we can, and to taſte the ſweets of life, which may ſerve as an antidote to the bitter draughts with which the cup of every man is empoiſoned.

I thank you for your Magdeburg truffles. Noel has made a pie of them; and, as you could not taſte your own, I ſend you mine.

Adieu, my dear friend. Continue in good health; baniſh melancholy from your mind; and preſerve my friend, whom I ſhall never ceaſe to eſteem, till I ſhall ceaſe to live.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CLXIV.

From the King.

DEAR FRIEND, December 19, 1764.

I SEND you a ſmall mark of remembrance. I intend to preſent you with a table ſervice, and ſome vaſes, but theſe we cannot have ſooner than the month of March, when the whole manufactory will be completed, and in a condition to ſupply whatever we pleaſe.

Continue in good health, and never forget your old friends.

Adieu.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CLXV.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, December 24, 1764.

THOUGH the receipt of your beautiful porcelain gave me great joy, this joy was nevertheleſs ſurpaſſed by the ſatisfaction I felt at the ſucceſs of your manufactory, ſince it is your own product, your own work, and correſponds to all

your other enterprizes. I congratulate your majeſty, and have no doubt but this grand and fine eſtabliſhment will ſoon attain the utmoſt degree of perfection.

Accept, ſire, the ſincereſt wiſhes of my heart, on the coming year, for your preſervation and your health.

I am, &c,

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CLXVI.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, February 10, 1765.

I SEND you a part of a real Perigord pie with truffles, that came from that country. I wiſh the flavour may pleaſe you, and that this opportunity may procure me news of your health; for, though a neighbour, I do not hear a word from you; yet no perſon is more intereſted in your happineſs than your old and faithful friend,

FREDERIC.

LETTER CLXVII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, February 11, 1765.

I AM moſt ſenſible of your bounty and gracious recollection, and am much rejoiced to ſee your majeſty in repoſe; for reſt ſeems moſt neceſſary, ſire, occaſionally to be indulged in, at your age, if we wiſh to prolong life. The difference between the original Perigord pie and the Brandenburg copy ſeems to me very remarkable. I am obliged to do juſtice to that of Sans-Souci; and, according to my taſte, I think the ſeaſoning of Sir Noel is ſuperior even to the original.

My health is very equivocal. I never leave my incloſure, except to go to church, there to pray for your majeſty's proſperity; or occaſionally to un-earth a badger. I live very retired, and ſee no company, except ſome officers of the garriſon, my collegues; and my daughter, who is lately come to ſettle at Brandenburg, with her daughters Henrietta and Wilhelmina of Nimcheffſki, of whom her deceaſed huſband has appointed me the guardian. In this character I venture to petition your majeſty to be pleaſed,

ſome

ſome day, to grant them places in the chapel of Halle.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CLXVIII.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, March 11, 1765.

I RETURN from Berlin, where I have been to ſee my porcelain manufactory. I there found two vaſes and a baſin; and, thinking they might give you pleaſure, I ſend them you. The great chimneys are not yet entirely finiſhed; they are at work on them, and in ſix weeks at the lateſt we may have what we pleaſe. I ſhall not forget you, whenever I find any thing worthy to embelliſh your retreat.

Adieu, my dear friend; let me know how you do.

LET-

LETTER CLXIX.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, March 15, 1765.

I DO not think a child with his Chriſtmas box could feel greater joy than I did, when I received your vaſes and your baſin; they are perfectly beautiful, as well for the whiteneſs of the china, as in excellence of taſte and colours. I am convinced that neither Japan nor Europe ever produced any thing equal, or in ſo ſhort a ſpace of time.

My all on earth, ſire, at preſent, is a wiſh worthily to acknowledge the many favours with which your majeſty deigns to load me.

My health is paſſable; my voice continually becomes weaker; there are ſome days on which I can ſcarcely make myſelf heard.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LET-

LETTER CLXX.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, April 25, 1765.

I HAVE for theſe five weeks had the gout and the hemorrhoides, in a more violent manner than I ever had before; but, as the worſt is over, and as I am now on the recovery, one of the firſt things I have to do is to let you hear from me.

I hope for the return of good news on your part, and to be told that your health is better. I flatter myſelf, my dear general, what I now write will not be diſagreeable to you, and that your anſwer will eaſe my fears concerning the ſtate of your health.

Adieu, my dear friend. I embrace you with all my heart, and hope you will not be vexed that I intend to viſit you as I go to Magdeburg.

FREDERIC.

LET-

LETTER CLXXI.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, April 28, 1765.

TO hear that your majeſty is convaleſcent inſpires me with the greateſt poſſible joy, and I moſt humbly return your majeſty thanks for the agreeable news which you have been pleaſed to ſend me.

I have ſuppoſed myſelf preſent, during your violent fits of the gout, till your pain has even made me grind my teeth. This apparently has at the ſame time increaſed the pain of a ſwelling in my legs, with which I have for ſome weeks been incommoded.

By the aid of whey, I begin to be better. But I have your majeſty's health more at heart than my own; and I venture to conjure your majeſty to take every poſſible means, during the fine weather, that may concur to the recovery of your ſtrength.

You will be a welcome gueſt at Brandenburg, and I ſhall think myſelf too happy and too much honoured in my retreat, by making the pot boil for your majeſty.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CLXXII.

From the King.

June 6, 1765.

I SHALL be with you on the 9th at noon, my dear friend, and ſhall come alone, which will require neither banqueting nor expence. The pot boiling, literally underſtood, will be ſufficient. I hope to find you in good health, cheerful, and happy.

We have found ſome bad, ſome good, at the review, which neither reſembled thoſe of Berlin nor of Stettin; but we ſhall do better in time.

Adieu, my dear friend; I moſt tenderly embrace you.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CLXXIII.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, June 26, 1765.

I SEND you ſome fruits, from Sans-Souci. I have ſomething more for you, which I wiſh to give you myſelf. The court of Brunſwick will be here on the 10th of next month. I now

have time which is at your diſpoſal, do but chooſe your day.

Adieu, my dear friend.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CLXXIV.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, June 27, 1765.

SINCE the creation of Brandenburg, never, according to all appearances, were ſeen, at this time of the year, ſuch variety of fruits as your majeſty has juſt ſent me.

You add your commands, ſire, to come and gather for myſelf, which I certainly ſhall not fail to obey.

The ſieur Cothenius, having preſcribed bathing for a fortnight, by which I found relief, I entreat your majeſty's permiſſion to continue it till next Saturday; that, on the Sunday after, I may have the happineſs to throw myſelf at your feet, and to teſtify how ſincerely I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LET-

LETTER CLXXV.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, September 16, 1765.

I AM returned from Sileſia. The waters of Landeck have reſtored me the uſe of my limbs, and I do not at preſent ſeem to have had the gout.

I found your regiment in better order than ever. Luck is an exceedingly good officer, and one who ſerves from motives of honour and ambition.

I hope my gardener has ſupplied you well, during my abſence. I ſhall now be myſelf your purveyor, and furniſh your houſe with fruit, or whatever can be moſt agreeable to you. But I require you ſhould write me news of your health, that my mind may be at eaſe concerning my good old friend, whom I ſhall love to the end of life.

Adieu.

FREDERIC.

LET-

LETTER CLXXVI.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, September 16, 1765.

THE confirmation which I have juſt received, from your majeſty, of the good effects which the waters of Landeck have produced, has given me extreme joy.

Your ſatisfaction, ſire, is mine; it is my ſole conſolation. I ſhall never ceaſe to pray, moſt ſincerely, for the health of your majeſty.

I feel great ſatisfaction at underſtanding that you found my regiment in good order. Lieutenant-colonel Luck announced to me, with great joy, the real marks which your majeſty has given him of your gracious approbation; which cannot but induce him continually to render his zeal for your ſervice more apparent.

You command me, ſire, to ſend you news of my health. For near four weeks I have been afflicted with the ſciatica. I thought proper to take the balſam of Mecca, about fifteen or twenty drops of which I had remaining, which ſerved me as many days. I find myſelf more light and much eaſed.

I return your majeſty thanks for your excellent fruit; and am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CLXXVII.

From the King.

September 18, 1765.

FORTUNATELY, my dear friend, I ſtill have a bottle of the balſam of Mecca, which the Effendi gave me. This I ſend you with all imaginable pleaſure, and with a thouſand wiſhes that the balſam may do you every poſſible good.

Continue in good health, and do not forget the moſt faithful and the oldeſt of your friends.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CLXXVIII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, Sept. 19, 1765.

THE bottle of balſam, which your majeſty has done me the favour to ſend me, is juſt delivered.

Never did prince take more care for his ſervant, than your majeſty does for my health.

What diſtinguiſhes your majeſty, from other princes, is that you act thus in favour of a man

who is unable to teſtify his gratitude, by the leaſt ſervice. How afflicting, ſire, is my fate, to be unable to anſwer ſo many acts of bounty, except by thoſe ſentiments of attachment, and inviolable fidelity, in which I ſhall to the laſt moment of life remain, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CLXXIX.

From the King.

December 31, 1765.

A HAPPY new year to you, my dear friend. I ſend you a preſent, ſuch as well may be ſent from one old man to another, that is, an eaſy chair, which you may raiſe or lower at your pleaſure; ſome true balſam of Mecca, for the recovery of your ſtrength; and ſome trifles from my porcelain manufactory, for your amuſement. When I ſhall ſee you at Potſdam, in the ſummer, I will preſent you with ſomething more ſolid.

In the mean time, my dear friend, accept my good wiſhes for increaſing health, and my aſſurances that no perſon is more intereſted in your welfare than is your old and faithful friend.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CLXXX.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, January 3, 1766.

YOUR majeſty would certainly not have been the firſt to ſend your compliments, on the new year, had I not refrained from motives of attention and prudence. But I am well perſuaded that, of all the compliments you will receive on this occaſion, there certainly, ſire, are none which can ſurpaſs the ſincerity of my heart, or of my wiſhes for your welfare and glory.

I thank you, ſire, for the beautiful and excellent new year's gifts, which you have had the kindneſs to ſend me, and I congratulate your majeſty, on the ſatisfaction you muſt feel at the ſucceſs of your porcelain manufactory; eſpecially as the laſt china is ſtill ſuperior, in beauty, to all the preceding.

I will make a good uſe of my eaſy chair, and will ſlumber in it as well as I am able.

The firſt bottle of the balſam of Mecca ſent by your majeſty having done me good, and cured my ſpaſms and ſciatica, I have reaſon to hope that the ſecond will effect the reſt; except

reſtoring me to freedom of breathing, and of utterance; for my voice ſeems continually to become weaker.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CLXXXI.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, January 9, 1766.

I AM delighted to find the trifles I ſent were agreeable to you. I have given you the laſt bottle of balſam of Mecca I had; but I will write to Conſtantinople to have more in reſerve, ſhould you wiſh me ſo to do.

Our holidays reſemble the working days of Brandenburg; we have neither plays nor any other diverſions, becauſe of a family mourning, by which I am very ſenſibly afflicted. However I have taken off the prohibition for the laſt fortnight, to oblige our youth, who are but little affected by the ſorrows of others.

Your tobacco ſhares proſper well, and I flatter myſelf you will have reaſon to be ſatisfied with them.

Adieu, my dear friend; take good care of

your health, and depend on the ſincerity of my affection, which ever will be what it ever has been.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CLXXXII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, January 9, 1766.

I AM penetrated ſo much, by all the favours you confer on me, that I never can return you proper thanks, as well for the care which your majeſty is pleaſed to take of my health as for that which you are pleaſed to take of my intereſt. The latter induces me to requeſt a new favour, from your majeſty.

At the taking of Glatz, I loſt all my ſecurities, which I poſſeſſed, to the amount of eighteen thouſand five hundred crowns, on your Landſchaft of Berlin, and an account of which I here ſend. I therefore entreat your majeſty, in order that my family may not ſuffer, to grant me new ſecurities, conformable to the firſt, which were ſigned by your own hand.

We are authorized, as well by reaſon as by cuſtom, to moderate grief as well as joy; conſequently

ſequently your majeſty may, without ſcruple, partake of the pleaſures of the ſeaſon.

As your majeſty is in good health at the beginning of your climacteric year, I flatter myſelf your life will be of long duration.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CLXXXIII.

From the King.

January 12, 1766.

THE letter which you ſent me dated the 9th I have received, and have with pleaſure ſeized this opportunity of teſtifying my good will, by obliging you. I have ſent preciſe directions to the Landſchaft, in order that new contracts may be made out, and brought me, according to the enumeration, which you remitted me, of the money you placed in thoſe funds.

On which I pray God to take you into his holy keeping.

FREDERIC.

P. S. I will remit your receipts, my dear friend, as ſoon as they ſhall be ſent to me.

LET-

LETTER CLXXXIV.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, February 9, 1766.

I SEND you a ſmall ſtock of Italian truffles, which I have procured by the way of Vienna. I wiſh they may be agreeable to you, and may incite your appetite.

I am here tranquilly waiting, in my hole, for the return of ſpring. This is no ſeaſon for us; we old men revive but in ſpring, and vegetate in ſummer; whereas winter is only good for hot-headed and impetuous youth that cools itſelf on the ice, and with ſnow-balls.

Adieu, my dear friend. My prayers are for your preſervation, and for all which can add to the pleaſures of your life.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CLXXXV.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, February 11, 1766.

I RETURN thanks for the Italian truffles which your majeſty has ſent me. Thoſe perſons

who have tasted both kinds think the truffles found in your good countries of Magdeburg and Halberstadt, are infinitely the best. The length of the journey of the first may be the reason of this.

May your majesty long enjoy every viand, and every sweet this earth can afford, of which no person is more worthy than yourself.

I flatter myself, sire, you will live much longer than to my present age of sixty-nine; especially after the effect produced by the waters of Landeck, which have so far confirmed your health as to enable you to support both cold and heat, in those seasons when you make your reviews.

I am becoming deaf, sire, and it is with the utmost difficulty that I can make myself understood.

Your servant is slowly preparing to begin his great journey. Be it soon or late, or how it may, remain persuaded, sire, that I love you, am most inviolably devoted to you, and that my profound respect will continue to the last breath of life.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LET-

LETTER CLXXXVI.

From the King.

February 16, 1766.

YOUR letter, my dear friend, has made me melancholy. You ſpeak of your departure; did it depend on me, my wiſh is to preſerve you as long as poſſible. Men are every where met with, but men ſo honeſt and friends ſo faithful as you moſt rarely. Take all poſſible care of yourſelf, that I may not loſe you ſo ſoon; and remember the affliction I ſhould feel, were I to be ſeparated from you eternally.

Deafneſs is nothing; there are ear-trumpets, which facilitate the power of hearing. The late madame de Rocoulle made uſe of theſe, and I will have ſome made for you; ſo that I hope, by the aid of fine weather, you will recover your ſtrength, and that I ſhall ſtill have the pleaſure of enjoying your company at Sans-Souci.

Fully perſuaded of this, let me beg you to take every precaution you can, that I may have the happineſs again to embrace you, and to afford you marks of my ſincere tenderneſs.

Adieu.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CLXXXVII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, February 19, 1766.

TO anſwer your kindneſs is impoſſible. My cheeks are ſuffuſed by a torrent of tears; my heart is overburthened, and expreſſions I have none. Of all my conſolations, that which flatters me the moſt is that you ſhould eſteem me among the number of your friends, Yet who am I, that I ſhould be thus favoured? Like Mephiboſheth, I am but a dead dog.

It is not cuſtomary with princes to have hearts ſo tender. How then, ſire, can you, who ſurpaſs all princes, have ſo much affection for your friends? The uncommonneſs and the high worth of this quality I well feel.

Heaven, ſire, is my witneſs, I do not think it poſſible to ſurpaſs the ſentiments of attachment in which I hold your auguſt perſon.

My decline is general. I ſpeak but little, becauſe of the difficulty with which I am underſtood; and, like the late general Rochow, I cannot even articulate the words I wiſh to pronounce.

The fine weather perhaps will effect ſome

change, and will procure me the only pleaſure to which I aſpire, in this world, which is that of ſeeing your majeſty.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CLXXXVIII.

From the King.

February 24, 1766.

I WELL perceive, my dear friend, you muſt fortify yourſelf. Two days ago, we wiſhed to taſte ſome of the Hungarian wine of my grandfather, which was found to be good. I kept a bottle, which I here ſend you. It is the laſt: may it be ſerviceable to you!

If you wiſh for other old wines, I have them of every kind; and it will give me true pleaſure to ſend you a ſupply. You have only to ſay the word.

I wiſh a thouſand times for your preſervation, and embrace you with all my heart.

Adieu, my dear friend.

FREDERIC.

LET-

LETTER CLXXXIX.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, March 2, 1766.

WHAT a pity is it, and what a loſs, to deprive your majeſty of the moſt delectable of wines, and to be ſo oppoſite in taſte to Saint Luke! This holy man, no doubt advanced in years and with a debilitated ſtomach, thought, like a good judge, that old wine was preferable to new. Notwithſtanding the contrary ſentiments of your majeſty, I ſhall never ceaſe moſt ardently to wiſh for the preſervation of your precious life.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CXC.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, April 16, 1766.

I SEND you ſome vegetables, and what our garden can beſt afford. I hope they will give you pleaſure, that you will eat them in good health, and that while eating you will remember your old friend.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CXCI.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, April 17, 1766.

I RETURN thanks for the vegetables which your majeſty has ſent me. Productions ſo premature are to be found only at Sans-Souci.

Equally penetrated by joy, to hear you are in good health, and by gratitude, for your majeſty's gracious remembrance of me, I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CXCII.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, May 31, 1766.

I INVITE myſelf without any ceremony, authoriſed by friendſhip ſo to do, to dinner with you, on the 2d of June, which is the day after to-morrow.

I previouſly enjoy the pleaſure I ſhall have to embrace you, my dear Fouquet. I ſhall be with you at eleven o'clock.

Adieu, my dear friend.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CXCIII.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, July 5, 1766.

I SEND you ſome fruits out of my garden. Hitherto I have been buſy; I am now alone. I do not however invite you to come, till the rain ſhall ceaſe; becauſe the preſent cold may be injurious to your health.

You will have the goodneſs to tell me frankly whether this ſhort journey ſuits you, and when you will undertake it, that I may ſend my horſes forward.

Adieu, my dear friend. I ſhall acknowledge this pleaſure, which you wiſh to give me, and am &c.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CXCIV.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, July 5, 1766.

I RETURN thanks for the excellent fruits which your majeſty has ſent me.

The more my heart is penetrated by gratitude, for the gracious remembrance of your majeſty,

majeſty, the more, ſire, am I mortified to ſee myſelf, by my ſituation, deprived of the power of obeying your commands.

My pains under the ribs are ſtill the ſame, and will not ſuffer me to quit my great chair. I hope the fine weather will relieve my ſufferings, and will enable me to gratify the reſpectful ardour I feel, to throw myſelf at your majeſty's feet.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CXCV.

From the King.

July 16, 1766.

I SENT you a phyſician; but as I know you exerciſe his art but little, I ſend you ſome melons, my dear friend; which perhaps may be more to your taſte. The phyſician pretends you have paſſed the ſeaſon of bleeding, but that, by taking away a little blood, you would find yourſelf conſiderably eaſed. No one more intereſts himſelf in your preſervation than I do; you ſhould not therefore think it ſtrange that I trouble myſelf with all that relates to the health, or can prolong the life of, my old and faithful friend.

Adieu, my dear general.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CXCVI.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, July 16, 1766.

THE only relief I find is in your majeſty's bounty. I mean to try bathing, in conformity to the preſcription of your phyſician. I am regularly bled twice a year, on the 15th of April and the 15th of October. Indeed, I agree with the popular opinion, and prefer cherries and melons to caſſia, ſenna, and rhubarb.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CXCVII.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, September 26, 1766.

I SEND you ſome Hungarian wine, having heard in Sileſia that you wiſhed for ſome. At the ſame time I ſend you ſome grapes, which you will eat, if they be not injurious. I have alſo written to Conſtantinople for ſome balſam of Mecca, becauſe I ſuſpect yours is all uſed.

In fine, I wiſh to contribute to your preſervation by every means in my power. Second my enterprize,

enterprize, my dear general, and take every care of your health, that I may enjoy my old and faithful friend as long as poſſible.

Adieu.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CXCVIII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, September 27, 1766.

WHAT cares does your majeſty take for a man who is no longer good for any thing! Not ſatisfied with having ſent me Hungarian wine and raiſins, which contend with each other which is the moſt delicious, Aſia muſt further ſupply its balſam.

How, ſire, may I anſwer thoſe infinite kindneſſes with which your majeſty loads me? My heart feels all the effuſions of gratitude, but expreſſion fails me.

Nothing, except the gracious attentions of your majeſty, contributes to my preſervation; and but for theſe, perhaps, I were now no more.

The balſam of Mecca, ſire, will not fail to give me ſtrength, and I will drink your Hungarian wine to fortify my ſtomach, while ſinging

the praiſe and glory of my incomparable benefactor.

How great, ſire, is my grief, to find myſelf no longer able to prove, by my ſervices, the zeal and inviolable devotion with which

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CXCIX.

From the King.

October 11, 1766.

I HAVE at length, my dear friend, received the balſam of Mecca, which my miniſter has brought me from Conſtantinople. I ſend it you, with a thouſand wiſhes that it may do you all poſſible good; aſſuring you that no perſon is more intereſted in your welfare than your old friend,

FREDERIC.

LETTER CC.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, October 17, 1766.

IT is not enough that your majeſty ſhould have rendered my life happy; you endeavour to

to lengthen it, by the gracious care you take of my health. I return you thanks for the proviſion of balſam of Mecca, which you have juſt ſent me. I ſhall take this excellent remedy as a bracer, and as a proof of your bounty.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CCI.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, December 19, 1766.

I SEND you a ſervice of porcelain, which I have long deſtined for you, but which the ovens would not permit to be finiſhed ſooner. I beg you to uſe it. Should any part be broken, the ſet may very eaſily be completed.

Continue in good health; live to give me pleaſure; and enjoy every proſperity human nature can taſte. Such are the wiſhes of the oldeſt and moſt faithful of your friends,

FREDERIC.

LETTER CCII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, December 23, 1766.

IF there be any means of prolonging my life, I believe your majeſty poſſeſſes the ſecret. Witneſs the joy I feel at the beautiful preſent of porcelain which I have juſt received.

Certain it is, ſire, that, in the morning taking balſam of Mecca, a ſoup well breaded at noon in your beautiful turenes, and your old Hungarian wine at the deſſert—according to all appearances, by ſuch a continuation, we may yet travel far.

Imagine how lively is my gratitude, and what are the obligations I owe your majeſty, for all your grace and favours. As I am at preſent of no uſe, ſire, I can only employ my whole time in ſinging laud, honour, and glory to you*, and in praying for the proſperity of your auguſt perſon.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

* Alluding to his church living, which he enjoyed as a canon of Magdeburg.

LET-

LETTER CCIII.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, February 18, 1767.

I SEND you a ſmall Perigord pie. I wiſh it may be agreeable to you, and that your health may permit you to eat it, without inconvenience to yourſelf.

The people who come from Brandenburg ſay that you are very well; but you never can be ſo well as I wiſh you, for no one intereſts himſelf ſo much in your preſervation as your old and faithful friend,

FREDERIC.

LETTER CCIV.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, February 18, 1767.

I RETURN you thanks for your Perigord pie, which you were pleaſed to ſend me. I think it very good, and it certainly is ſufficiently high flavoured; but the way to put all things whatever to a proper uſe is to uſe them ſoberly. I depend with certainty that your majeſty will act thus.

With reſpect, ſire, to my health, it is paſſable; thanks to the weather, which at preſent permits me occaſionally to un-earth a badger, or a fox. I ſpeak however ſo unintelligibly as not to make myſelf underſtood, and I ſtagger in my gait. There is but one thing of which I have no doubt, and that is of the inviolable attachment with which my heart will ever be devoted to you, to the laſt moment of my life.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CCV.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, September 4, 1767.

I DARE flatter myſelf your journey is fortunately ended to your ſatisfaction; and I judge thus by the promotions which you have thought proper to make. The intereſt I feel, in what relates to colonel Luck, makes me augur that your majeſty was ſatisfied with the regiment.

To crown my wiſhes, ſire, may you ever continue in good health! And, after being ſatisfied with your journeys, and your reviews, I hope you will now unbend, by preparing a welcome for the prince of Orange, and will conclude the whole

whole by excellent and glorious nuptials. Permit me, ſire, to preſent my compliments of congratulation. I return thanks to your majeſty for the part I have had, during your abſence, in the melons of Sans-Souci.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CCVI.

From the King.

September 7, 1767.

I AM returned, my dear friend, from Sileſia, where I found your regiment very fine, and in very good order.

I am ſoon to beſtow my niece in marriage. I would willingly invite you to the wedding, but that I know you prefer retirement to the hurry of courts.

I embrace you with all my heart.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CCVII.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, November 12, 1767.

I SEND you ſome balſam of Mecca, which is juſt arrived from Conſtantinople; with ſome grapes from my vine trees, and ſome bottles of the old Rheniſh wine which you love. I wiſh the whole may be agreeable to you, and that you may regale on what I ſend.

Live, my dear general, for your friends; eſpecially for me, who am the oldeſt of them all, and who will remain attached to you to the end of life.

Adieu.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CCVIII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, November 13, 1767.

I AM ſenſibly affected by the new marks of grace and favour which your majeſty has teſtified for me, in the cares which you take for the preſervation of my life.

I have reaſon to eſteem myſelf the moſt happy

of mortals; eſpecially, ſire, ſhould heaven hereafter ratify thoſe favours which you have ſhewn for me, during my reſidence on earth. This I dare hope for, and found my hopes on the friendſhip which I bear to the anointed of heaven, for whoſe proſperity and preſervation I never ceaſe offering up my prayers.

I am, and ſhall be, ſire, to the laſt moment of life, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CCIX.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND; December 23, 1767.

I SHOULD think I had paſſed Chriſtmas ill, were I not to ſend you ſome ſmall mark of my remembrance. I have accordingly ſent you a packet of my porcelain, that you may judge of the progreſs of my manufactory; and ſome truffles, which I have received from Turin. I wiſh they may both prove agreeable to you. I hope likewiſe you are in good health, and that you do not forget your old and faithful friend,

FREDERIC.

LETTER CCX.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, December 30, 1767.

TO be unfit for any thing, yet to enjoy the favour and benefits beſtowed by the king my maſter, is a kind of ſatisfaction the worth of which can never be fully felt, except by men of my age.

You, ſire, will judge of the joy which your gracious recollection, and the beautiful Chriſtmas-box which you have been pleaſed to add, have excited in my heart.

The productions of your porcelain manufactory are of the moſt finiſhed kind; and their beauty and taſte ſurpaſs every thing to be met with of the ſort. With reſpect to the truffles of Turin, according to my taſte they are good for nothing; perhaps the truffles of your own country would meet with a ſimilar fate, were they to make a ſimilar journey.

I wiſh your majeſty a good and proſperous year. May you continue in good health, and ever remain contented and happy!

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CCXI.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, January 7, 1768.

I SEND you the laſt duty which I have paid to a nephew, whom I much loved. I can aſſure you nothing is fictitious, and that his character and his knowledge were ſuch as they are here deſcribed *.

I will ſend you no more Italian truffles. Your cook certainly does not know how to dreſs them, for every body here thought them excellent.

Adieu, my dear friend. I embrace you, and offer up a thouſand prayers for your preſervation.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CCXII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, January 8, 1768.

I AM very ſenſibly affected by the death of prince Henry; although I had no knowledge of him, except of the beauty of his perſon.

* This refers to an eulogium on prince Henry of Pruſſia, in an extraordinary aſſembly of the Royal Academy of Sciences, on the 30th of December, 1767.

The care which you, ſire, had taken of his education, the hopes you founded on the merits of this dear prince, and the eulogium you have written on him, are at once a teſtimony of the friendſhip you bore him, and the good qualities he poſſeſſed. In a word, he was your own work.

I was preſent at his funeral oration, in the cathedral church, where a hymn was ſung to him, which made me weep bitterly.

The loſs of this amiable prince may be ſaid to be irreparable, if—be it ſpoken with your majeſty's permiſſion—you ſhould not redouble your attention to the prince of Pruſſia, to whom is generally attributed the character of a worthy man, and all the ſentiments that correſpond to that character. This, ſire, becomes a duty due to your own rank, to your family, to the ſtate, and ſtill more to the gratitude and obligation which the prince will be under to you.

I return your majeſty thanks for the copy of the eulogium which you have done me the honour to ſend me, and which I eſteem to be a perfect work.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LET-

LETTER CCXIII.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, April 26, 1768.

I HEAR from general Kleiſt that you are indiſpoſed, and I ſend my phyſician to enquire into your health. You have a thouſand good wiſhes from me, but wiſhing is all I can do. Were I a phyſician, I would cure you; were I a god, I would render you immortal, for ſo good men ought to be; but my power can do nothing more than pray for you.

If any thing here can render you ſervice, you need but ſpeak the word. Whatever depends upon me ſhall be done.

I wiſh to hear good and agreeable news from you. In the mean time I tenderly embrace you.

Adieu.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CCXIV.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, April 27, 1768.

THOUGH you are neither phyſician nor god, your grace and favour nevertheleſs are produc-

productive of good effects; eſpecially of the joy which I feel, to hear that you are in good health; a continuation of which I wiſh you for a long ſucceſſion of years.

With reſpect to myſelf, I keep travelling on, and am gradually preparing for my long journey. The bark has juſt cured me of the fever. Nothing is wanting to reſtore me to perfect health but the power of making myſelf underſtood, of ſpeaking, and of walking.

I recollect that, thirty years ago, I perſuaded the diſeaſed duke of Barby to employ the baths of Lauchſtædt, near Halle; to theſe he went on two crutches, and returned from them ſafe and ſound, in four weeks, walking upright and as uſual.

I ſhould be much tempted to make the experiment, would your majeſty but grant me permiſſion. This however muſt not be, till your majeſty have firſt paſſed through Brandenburg.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LET-

LETTER CCXV.

From the King.

April 28, 1768.

I WAS glad to learn from your letter that you are recovering your health, and that it is your intention to try the waters of Lauchſtædt. It depends abſolutely on yourſelf to go thither, when you pleaſe, provided it be not at the time of the approaching reviews, when I ſhall go to Magdeburg; for I much wiſh to have the pleaſure of ſeeing you as I paſs through Brandenburg.

On which I pray God to take you into his holy keeping.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CCXVI.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, October 13, 1768.

HERE is a ſmall tribute which I preſent to you. Do not look at the ſum; conſider only the

the tender and faithful heart of your friend, whoſe wiſh is to give you pleaſure.

Take good care of yourſelf; live to the age of Methuſelah, and remain perſuaded that I ſhall love you, body and ſoul, to my laſt ſigh.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CCXVII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, December 24, 1768.

I KNOW not what anſwer to return, for all the favours and benefits which you heap upon me. I have no expreſſions equal to the wiſh I have to teſtify my gratitude to your majeſty. I dare however aſſure you, ſire, that I ſhould be leſs affected by all the wealth you could poſſibly beſtow on me, than by the gracious terms in which the preſent is made.

My heart is your pledge, ſire, of the inviolable attachment which, to the laſt moment of my exiſtence, I ſhall feel for your auguſt perſon.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LET-

LETTER CCXVIII.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, December 22, 1768.

I HERE ſend you a trifling mark of recollection. It is cuſtomary for families to make preſents at Chriſtmas, and I treat you as one of the family; as well as a worthy and well tried knight, without fear and without reproach*, and my old and conſtant friend.

Take good care of your health, that I may preſerve my good old friend as long as poſſible, and that I may yet often have the pleaſure of perſonally aſſuring you of the whole extent of my tenderneſs and eſteem.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CCXIX.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, December 24, 1768.

MY children were very far from feeling the ſame joy, at the Chriſtmas-boxes they received,

* While Frederic II. was prince royal, among his other amuſements, he formed an order of knighthood, and named it after the famous French chevalier de Bayard. General Fouquet was one of his knights. T.

as I did at the receipt of yours, accompanied as they were with the gracious recollection with which you are pleaſed to honour me. Why am I denied worthily to acknowledge ſo many favours? This I can only do in idea, and by prayers the moſt ſincere which an affectionate heart can offer.

I no longer can make myſelf underſtood, and I loſe my hearing. I am endeavouring to procure a ſmall trumpet, at Berlin, to ſupply if poſſible this defect, ſimilar to that which madame Rocoulle made uſe of, but cannot find any ſuch.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CCXX.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, January 9, 1769.

I SEND you all the acouſtic inſtruments I have been able to collect here, with remarks on their uſe. I wiſh they may aid your hearing, and eaſe your old age. Could I reſtore you to youth, I would; but that is a thing which ſurpaſſes my power.

I embrace you with all my heart.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CCXXI.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, January 12, 1769.

WERE my recovery poſſible, I certainly might expect it from the goodneſs of your majeſty. I moſt humbly return you thanks, ſire, for the inſtruments which you have ſent me, the two largeſt of which produced their effect. I will prove them to-morrow at church, where I will pray for the proſperity of my auguſt benefactor.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CCXXII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, September 5, 1769.

PERMIT me to mention the part I take in your happy return from Sileſia, and in the remarkable viſit which you have juſt received from his Imperial majeſty at Neiſs; an event that will ever remain memorable in your hiſtory. I wiſh,

ſire, the whole may have terminated to your majeſty's ſatisfaction; and that this monarch, deſirous of inſtruction, while he renders juſtice to your military talents, may not wiſh hereafter to profit by the leſſons he has juſt received, after the example of the Ruſſians, by practiſing them againſt his maſter.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CCXXIII.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, September 7, 1769.

I AM much obliged to you for the part you take in the viſit I have received.

The young emperor is a prince full of merit and ambition. He ſhewed every mark of friendſhip, equal to what any one of my neareſt relations could have conceived for me.

He even told me he never intended to make uſe, either againſt me or my family, of any knowledge he might acquire among us.

He left me well ſatisfied; and has invited me next year to viſit him, which I have promiſed to do, as it was but juſt I ſhould.

Your regiment has again been found in fine

and excellent order. Theſe troops are all in ſuch good condition that nothing further can be deſired for them, their preſervation excepted. In a word, I have every reaſon to be ſatisfied with my journey.

I ſend you ſome fruits from my orchard; for at our age, my dear friend, we can only cultivate our gardens.

I embrace you from the bottom of my heart, aſſuring you that I am wholly yours.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CCXXIV.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, September 8, 1769.

I AM delighted to learn, from your gracious letter, that you are ſatisfied with the viſit of his Imperial majeſty, and with your whole journey. I have nothing more to wiſh, except to know that you are always in good health, at hearing which nothing can equal the conſolation I feel.

I return your majeſty thanks for the excellent fruit which you have had the goodneſs to ſend me.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CCXXV.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, December 29, 1769.

I SEND you a Chriſtmas gift of my porcelain manufactory. The progreſs of the artiſts is viſible. I hope it will give you ſome pleaſure, for this is what I mean; loving you as I do, and conſidering you as a true knight, and as the oldeſt of my friends.

I am, body and ſoul, wholly yours.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CCXXVI.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, December 29, 1769.

I RETURN your majeſty thanks for the Chriſtmas gift you have had the bounty to ſend me. The beauty of your porcelain continually increaſes; and I cannot but think it has attained the utmoſt degree of perfection, as well in excellence of deſign as in whiteneſs.

The thing which moſt affects me is the gracious recollection of your majeſty; and that which I moſt ardently wiſh is your perfect health, and the preſervation of your auguſt perſon.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CCXXVII.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, May 6, 1770—the day of the battle of Prague.

I SEND you ſome old Hungarian wine, to give you pleaſure, on the ſame day on which, thirty years ago, you were ſo cruelly wounded by our enemies.

I have had the gout, which has this time very ill treated me, by three ſucceſſive fits in both my legs and knees; but I now think no more of it.

We proceed with our diſcipline marvellouſly well. I ſhall continue my old train as long as I can draw breath.

May your health be as good as I wiſh it to be; and may you remain perſuaded of the infinite tenderneſs and eſteem by which I am perſonally attached to you!

FREDERIC.

LETTER CCXXVIII.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, May 7, 1779.

I RETURN you thanks for the old Hungarian wine which you have had the goodneſs to ſend me, with which to celebrate the day of the battle of Prague. It has been a reſtorative to me, conſidering that all my faculties decline.

The recovery of your majeſty contributes to mine. The painful experience you have had has taught you to remedy the evil by regimen.

I wiſh your health may be durable, and that you may continue to exerciſe your troops to the end of this century.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CCXXIX.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND, December 24, 1770.

I SEND you a ſmall token of friendſhip and remembrance, which I hope you will accept,

cept, as coming from your oldeſt and moſt faithful friend. I wiſh the new year may bring you back your voice, eye-ſight, and hearing; that you may continue to love me, and that you may remain perſuaded of my friendſhip and eſteem.

Adieu.

FREDERIC.

LETTER CCXXX.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, December 28, 1770.

I AM ſenſibly affected by the reiterated remembrance of your majeſty; and my regret, at not being able worthily to acknowledge ſo many favours, is extreme. The only returns I can make conſiſt in the moſt ſincere good wiſhes, and aſſurances that your happineſs is my ſole conſolation and relief under my infirmities, which continue to increaſe, and in which I have no reaſon to hope for any change.

I return thanks to your majeſty, for the beautiful porcelain which you have had the goodneſs to ſend me, and which ſurpaſſes every thing of the kind I have ever ſeen.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CCXXXI.

From General Fouquet.

SIRE, Brandenburg, September 23, 1771.

PERMIT me to declare the ſatisfaction I feel in your happy return from Sileſia, wiſhing with all my heart to hear you are in perfect health, and that your majeſty is ſatisfied with your journey.

I return you thanks, ſire, for the excellent fruit which has been ſent me, by your orders, during your abſence.

I am, &c.

L. M. FOUQUET.

LETTER CCXXXII.

From the King.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I AM glad to find the fruits were agreeable to you; with this intention they were ſent, and likewiſe becauſe I imagined Brandenburg did not furniſh much fruit this year.

I am returned from Sileſia, where I found much

much work had been done, but where however ſtill many things remain to do.

Your regiment begins to aſſume a moſt excellent appearance. But I will not ſpeak to you on the ſubject, becauſe, under your preſent infirmities, it would but lead to regret, and feelings which I wiſh not to excite.

Adieu, my dear friend. Take good care of your health, love me ever, and be perſuaded that, as I am the oldeſt, ſo am I likewiſe the moſt faithful of your friends.

FREDERIC.

End of the Correſpondence between FREDERIC II. *and General* FOUQUET.

AN

ESSAY

ON

GERMAN LITERATURE;

ITS DEFECTS, THEIR CAUSES,

AND

THE MEANS BY WHICH THEY MAY BE CORRECTED.

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ESSAY

ON

GERMAN LITERATURE.

YOU are aſtoniſhed, ſir, to find I am not of your opinion; and that I do not applaud the progreſs which, according to you, is daily made in German literature. My love to our common country is not leſs than yours; but, for this very reaſon, I am moſt careful not to praiſe it, before praiſe ſhall be merited: that would but be to proclaim victory in the very heat and doubtful moment of battle. I wait till the enemy ſhall have fled the field, that the truth of my applauſe may be equal to its ſincerity.

You know that, in the republic of letters, opinions are free. You conſider objects under one point of view, I under another. Suffer

me

me therefore to explain myſelf, that I may tell you what my opinion is; and what are my ideas concerning literature, ancient and modern, as well with reſpect to languages, as to knowledge and taſte.

I begin with Greece, which may be called the cradle of the fine arts. The Greeks ſpoke the moſt harmonious language that ever exiſted. Their firſt theologians, as well as their firſt hiſtorians, were poets; and to poets were they indebted for the fortunate beauties of their language; for they created numerous pictureſque expreſſions, and taught their ſucceſſors to expreſs themſelves with decency, politeneſs, and elegance.

From Athens I paſs to Rome. Here I find a republic that long contended with its neighbours, combating for fame and empire. Every thing in this government was ſtrength and vigour; nor was it till after the Romans had ſubdued their rival, Carthage, that they acquired a taſte for ſcience. The great Scipio, the friend of Lelius and Polybius, was the firſt Roman who protected literature. Next came the Gracchi; after them Antony, and Craſſus, two orators that were famous in their age. At length the language, ſtyle, and eloquence of Rome attained full perfection, during the times of Cicero, Hortenſius,

Hortenſius, and thoſe men of ſuperior genius who honoured the Auguſtan age.

This ſhort retroſpect pictures to my mind the progreſs of letters. I am convinced that an author cannot write well, if the language he ſpeaks be not formed, be not poliſhed; and I perceive that men, in all countries, begin with what is neceſſary, afterward to add what is pleaſing. The Roman republic laboured for its own formation; it fought for territory, which it cultivated; and when, after the Punic wars, it aſſumed a ſtable form, the love of the arts was introduced, and eloquence and the Latin tongue attained perfection. But I muſt not neglect to obſerve that, from the firſt Scipio to the conſulſhip of Tully, there was a period of a hundred and ſixty years.

Hence I conclude that the progreſs of all things is ſlow; and that the ſeed muſt be planted in the ground, the tree muſt take root, ſhoot up, extend its branches, and gain ſtrength, before it can be productive of flowers and fruits. According to theſe rules will I proceed to examine German literature. That I may with juſtice appreciate what is our preſent ſituation, I eraſe prejudice from my mind; ſince truth alone ought to be my guide.

In Germany I find a half-barbarous language, which is divided into as many different dialects

as the empire contains provinces. Each circle is perſuaded its own provincial ſpeech is the beſt. There does not exiſt any collection that has acquired the ſanction of the nation, and to which an appeal is made for a choice of words, and phraſes, that conſtitute the purity of the language. The ſtyle written in Suabia is not intelligible at Hamburg; and that of Auſtria, in Saxony appears obſcure. It is therefore phyſically impoſſible that an author, gifted with the moſt happy genius, ſhould employ a language ſo unpoliſhed, with requiſite ſuperiority. If Phidias be required to form the Venus of Gnida, let him be preſented with a block of marble free from defect, and with the moſt excellent tools; he then may be ſucceſsful. No tools, no artiſt.

Perhaps it will be objected that the republics of Greece were as different, in their idioms, as are the provinces of Germany; and it will be added that, even in this age, the country of each Italian author is known by his ſtyle, as well as the natives are by their pronunciation. Theſe are truths of which I do not pretend to doubt; but they muſt not prevent us from attending to facts, ſuch as they were in ancient Greece, and ſuch as they are in modern Italy. Language is fixed by the writings of the moſt famous poets,

poets, orators, and hiſtorians. The public, by tacit convention, will adopt the turns, phraſes, and metaphors, which their greateſt authors have previouſly employed in their works; theſe expreſſions become common, and render language elegant: while they dignify they enrich.

Let us at preſent take a retroſpect of our own country: here I liſten to a jargon void of charms, which each utters according to his caprice; no choice of phraſeology, the moſt proper and expreſſive words neglected, and the ſenſe of the whole ſubmerged in oceans of epiſode. I ſeek to diſcover our Homers, our Virgils, our Anacreons, our Horace, Demoſthenes, Cicero, Thucydides, and Livy; but the reſearch is vain, none ſuch can I find. Be we therefore ſincere, and confidentially confeſs that, hitherto, the belles lettres have not flouriſhed in our ſoil. Germany has poſſeſſed philoſophers, who may ſtand the equals of the ancients, nay even their ſuperiors in certain reſpects; but of theſe I ſhall reſerve the notice to a future part of this Eſſay.

With reſpect to the belles lettres, let us confeſs our indigence. All I am able to grant you, without deſcending to be the vile paraſite of my countrymen, is to own that, in the inferior ſtyle of fables, we poſſeſs a Gellert, who may be ranked with Phædrus and Eſop. The poems of Canitz

are ſupportable; not for their diction, but becauſe they feebly imitate Horace. Nor will I omit the Idylles of Geſner, which have found partiſans; but I muſt be permitted to prefer the works of Catullus, Tibullus, and Propertius.

When I review hiſtorians, I can cite none but the Hiſtory of Germany, by profeſſor Maſco; and this only as the leaſt defective.

Do you wiſh me to ſpeak with due ſincerity concerning the merit of our orators? If ſo, I can mention none but the celebrated Quant, of Kœnigſberg, who has acquired the rare and ſingular talent of rendering his language harmonious: and, to our ſhame am I obliged to add, his merit has neither been acknowledged nor celebrated. How can it be expected men ſhould exert themſelves, to bring their ſtudies to perfection, if fame be not their reward? To the names I have cited I muſt join that of an anonymous writer, who has written poetry without rhime. The cadence and harmony of his verſification was the reſult of a mixture of the dactyle and the ſpondee: his language is comprehenſive; and my ear has been agreeably flattered by ſonorous ſounds, of which I did not think our language ſuſceptible. Hence I venture to preſume that this kind of verſification is that which, perhaps, beſt ſuits our idiom;

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and that it is likewiſe preferable to rhime. Probably a progreſs in it would be made, were ſufficient induſtry exerted to attain perfection.

I will not mention the German theatre. Melpomene has been addreſſed by brutal lovers; ſome on the ſtilts of bombaſt, and others groveling in the duſt. All of them, rebellious to her laws, incapable of intereſting or affecting, have vainly ſacrificed at her altars. The lovers of Thalia have been more fortunate, for they have at leaſt furniſhed us with one true and original comedy: I mean the *Poſtzug*. This piece is a picture of our manners, and our follies, which are well expoſed by the poet on the ſtage: it is excellently written. Had Molière choſen the ſame ſubject, he could not have been more ſucceſsful.

I am ſorry I cannot give you a more ſplendid catalogue of our good productions. I do not accuſe the nation, which is not deſtitute either of wit or genius; but it has been retarded by cauſes that have prevented it from riſing at the ſame time that neighbouring nations have riſen. Let us go back to the revival of letters; and compare the ſituation of Italy, France, and Germany, at the time of this revolution, which produced ſuch great effects on the human underſtanding.

Italy, you know, was their nurſery; the houſe of Eſt, the family of Medicis, and pope Leo X. contributed to their progreſs, by granting them protection. While Italy was thus buſied, Germany, diſturbed by her theologians, was divided into two factions; each of which ſignalized itſelf by its hatred for the other, its enthuſiaſm, and its fanaticiſm.

At this period, Francis I. thought proper to emulate the glory of Italy, by contributing to the reſtoration of literature. In vain did he weary himſelf with exertions to tranſplant letters into France; his labours were fruitleſs. The monarchy, exhauſted by the ranſom of its king, which ranſom it had paid to Spain, was in a ſtate of languor. The wars of the league, which followed the death of Francis I. prevented the citizens from applying themſelves to the fine arts. Nor was it till toward the end of the reign of Louis XIII. when the wounds of civil war had been healed, under the adminiſtration of cardinal de Richelieu, in times which favoured the enterprize, that the French again reſorted to the project of Francis I. The court encouraged men of learning and of wit; emulation was excited; and ſoon after, under the reign of Louis XIV. Paris yielded neither to Florence nor Rome.

What

What paſſed at this period in Germany? At the very time when Richelieu acquired immortal glory, by poliſhing his nation, the Germans were engaged in the war of thirty years. Our country was ravaged, and pillaged, by twenty different armies; which, now victorious, now defeated, carried deſolation in their train. The fields were laid waſte, and left uncultivated; the towns were almoſt without inhabitants. Scarcely had Germany leiſure to breathe, after the peace of Weſtphalia. At one time ſhe had to oppoſe the forces of the Ottoman empire, which then were formidable; and, at another, to reſiſt the arms of France, which encroached upon Germany, to extend the dominion of the Gauls. Can it be ſuppoſed, when the Turks beſieged Vienna, or when Melac plundered the Palatinate; when flames conſumed the city and the citizen; when the tombs even of the dead were violated by the unbridled fury of the ſoldier, who drew the bodies of the electors from their graves, to acquire their wretched ſpoils—can it, I ſay, be believed, when diſtracted mothers fled from their ruined country, bearing their children, exhauſted with hunger, in their arms, that ſonnets and epigrams were then compoſed at Vienna and at Manheim? The muſes require peace, ſecurity, and retirement; they fly the abodes of

trouble, where all order is ſubverted. Thus, it was not till after the war of the ſucceſſion, that we began to repair the ills which had been brought upon us, by ſo many ſucceſſive calamities. The little progreſs we have made muſt not be attributed to the want of underſtanding, or genius, in the nation; we muſt blame a continuation of unfavourable circumſtances, and thoſe inceſſant wars which have ruined and impoveriſhed us, as well in men as in money.

Let us not loſe the clue of incidents; let us attend to the conduct of our predeceſſors, and applaud the wiſdom by which it has been directed: they acted preciſely as was requiſite, in their then ſituation. They began by applying themſelves to rural œconomy, that they might reſtore land to its proper value; which, for want of labourers, had remained uncultivated. They rebuilt their ruined abodes; they encouraged the propagation of the ſpecies; they applied themſelves to clear lands that had run to waſte; and increaſing population gave birth to induſtry. Luxury has even been introduced; luxury, the ſcourge of ſmall ſtates, and the increaſe of circulation in great. In fine, travel, at preſent, from one end to the other of Germany, and you will every where find ſmall towns become flouriſhing cities. Here is Munſter; farther off is Caſſel:

ſel: now you come to Dreſden, and preſently to Gera. Paſs through Franconia and you will meet with Würzburg and Nürnberg; approach the Rhine and you will paſs through Fulda, and Frankfort on the Main, on your road to Manheim, to Mentz, and to Bonn. Each of theſe cities preſent, to the ſurpriſed traveller, edifices which he did not imagine he ſhould have found in the depths of the Hercynian foreſts. The manly activity of our countrymen has not, therefore, been merely confined to the reparation of loſſes, occaſioned by paſt affliction, but has aſpired more high; it has brought that to perfection which was but ſketched by our anceſtors.

Since theſe advantageous changes have been produced, we perceive the increaſe of plenty. The lower orders of the people do not languiſh in ſhameful degradation; and fathers now can afford to give their children inſtruction. Theſe are the firſt fruits of the fortunate revolution which we have reaſon to expect; the ſhackles which oppreſſed the genius of our progenitors are broken, and deſtroyed; and we already diſcover the ſeeds of noble emulation, ſprouting in all minds. We bluſh to perceive that, in certain reſpects, we are not the equals of our neighbours; we are arduous to recover, by indefatigable

gable labour, that time which, by diſaſter, we have loſt; and, in general, the national taſte is ſo determined, in the purſuit of whatever can dignify our country, that, with ſuch propenſities, it is almoſt certain the muſes will introduce us, in our turn, to the temple of Fame.

Let us therefore examine what is further to be done, that we may root from our country thoſe remains of barbariſm which ſtill are there; and that we may accelerate the very deſirable progreſs, which our countrymen aſpire ſo ardently to make. I have already ſaid we muſt begin by the improvement of the language. Rough as it is at preſent, and wanting poliſh, this is a work that muſt be performed by able hands. Perſpicuity is the firſt rule which thoſe who write and ſpeak ought to fix in their minds; for it is requiſite that they ſhould paint their thoughts, and by words expreſs ideas. What are thoughts the moſt juſt, nervous, or brilliant, if they are not rendered intelligible? Many of our authors indulge themſelves in a diffuſe ſtyle; they heap parentheſis upon parentheſis; and you will very often not come to the verb, on which the ſenſe of the whole phraſe depends, till after having read an entire page. Nothing can be more detrimental to perſpicuity, and the conſtruction of language, than this practice.

tice. Such writers are not full, not flowing, but careleſs and indolent. The enigma of the Sphinx might ſooner be divined than their meaning.

Another cauſe, which is as injurious to the progreſs of literature as the vices with which I reproach our language, and the ſtyle of our writers, is the defects of our education. The Germans have been accuſed of pedantry, becauſe we have a multitude of trifling, dull commentators. To waſh away this ſtain, we begin to neglect the ſtudy of the learned languages; and, that we may not become pedants, we are in danger of becoming ſuperficial. Few of our literati can read the claſſical authors, Greek and Latin, without difficulty. Thoſe who wiſh to form their ears to harmony, by the poetry of Homer, ought to be able to read Homer with eaſe, and without the aid of a dictionary. The ſame may be ſaid of Demoſthenes, Ariſtotle, Thucydides, and Plato. A familiar knowledge of the Latin writers is equally requiſite. Our youth at preſent apply themſelves but little, if at all, to Greek; and few of them are ſufficiently acquainted with the Latin, to make an indifferent tranſlation of the works of the great men who honoured the Auguſtan age. Theſe however are the fruitful ſources from which the Italians, French, and Engliſh, our predeceſſors,

have drawn their knowledge; they have, to the beſt of their power, formed themſelves according to theſe great models; their manner of thinking they have adopted; and, while they have admired the ſublime beauties which recur ſo inceſſantly in the works of the ancients, they have not neglected to remark their defects. Such remarks are neceſſary, and never ought we to abandon ourſelves to blind adulation. Theſe happy times, which the Italians, French, and Engliſh have enjoyed before us, begin at preſent ſenſibly to decline. The public has been ſatiated with the maſterly works that have appeared; knowledge, by being more expanded, is held in leſs eſteem. In fine, theſe nations, thinking themſelves in poſſeſſion of the fame which their authors have acquired them, now ſlumber on their laurels. But I know not how it has happened that I have thus digreſſed, and wandered from my ſubject. Let us return to ourſelves, and continue to examine what are the preſent defects of our education.

I think I remark that the ſmall number of good and able teachers who are to be met with, is unequal to the wants of our ſeminaries; of which we have many, and which all require ſuch proviſion. If the teacher be a pedant, his trifling mind will dwell on trifles, and neglect what

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is eſſential. Diffuſive, dull, and never ending, unmeaning in inſtruction, ſuch maſters weary the pupil, and inſpire a diſguſt for ſtudy. Other profeſſors conſider their employment merely as a mercenary office; whether their ſcholars do, or do not, profit by what they are taught, is to them indifferent, provided their ſalaries be duly paid: and this evil is ſtill increaſed, ſhould they happen themſelves to be deſtitute of knowledge. What indeed can thoſe teach who nothing know? God forbid there ſhould not be exceptions to the rule, and that able profeſſors ſhould not ſtill be to be found in Germany! This I am far from denying. My only and ardent wiſh is that their number may be increaſed.

What might I not object to the vicious method which maſters employ, in teaching their ſcholars grammar, logic, rhetoric, and other branches of education? How can they form the minds of their ſcholars, if they themſelves be unable to diſcriminate between the good and the indifferent, the indifferent and the bad; if they confound the diffuſe with the flowing, the trivial and the vulgar with the ſimple, negligent and defective proſe with eaſe, and bombaſt with the ſublime? Or what, if they do not carefully correct the themes of the ſtudents; and, while they correct, if they do not take care

care not to diſcourage, but induſtriouſly to inculcate thoſe rules which ought never to be forgotten, in compoſition? The ſame may be ſaid of the propriety of metaphors. I remember, in my youth, to have read, in an epiſtle dedicated by profeſſor Heineccius to a queen, the following beautiful phraſe—"*Ihro majeſtät glaänzen "wie ein karbunkel am finger der jetzingen zeit!*" that is—"*Your majeſty ſhines like a carbuncle on the finger of the preſent age!*". Can any thing be more ridiculous? Why a carbuncle? Has the preſent age a finger? Time indeed is figuratively depicted with wings, becauſe time inceſſantly flies; with an hour-glaſs, becauſe hours ſucceed each other; and is armed with a ſcythe, to ſignify that he mows down all beings like graſs. When profeſſors thus expreſs themſelves, in a ſtyle that is as mean as it is ridiculous, what can be expected from their ſcholars?

Let us deſcend to the lower claſſes of the univerſities, and examine them with equal impartiality. The defect which appears to me the moſt prominent is, that there is no general method by which to teach the ſciences. Each profeſſor forms a method of his own. My opinion is, that an excellent one ought to be formed, and that one univerſally introduced. But what is the preſent practice? A profeſſor, in civil law for example, has

has ſome favourite authors, and authorities, on which he commentates; and to theſe he confines himſelf, without mentioning other authors that have written on civil law. He vaunts of the dignity of his art, that he may increaſe the value of his individual knowledge. If his leſſons be obſcure, he imagines he is himſelf an oracle. He declaims on the laws of Memphis, when the provincial precedents of Oſnabruck are in queſtion; and inculcates the laws of Minos to a bachelor of St. Gall.

The philoſopher has his favourite ſyſtem, to which he, in much the ſame manner, adheres. His ſcholars leave their college with their minds loaded with prejudice; they have examined but a ſmall part of human opinions; they are not acquainted either with all their errors or all their abſurdities.

On medicine my opinion is not yet decided, whether it be an art or be not; but I am perfectly perſuaded that no man has the power to create a new ſtomach, new veins, or new inteſtines, when theſe eſſential parts of living exiſtence are vitiated; and I ſeriouſly adviſe my friends, when ill, rather to ſend for a phyſician who has peopled more than one church-yard, than for a young pupil of Hoffmann, or of Boerhaave, who has not yet killed man or woman.

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I have no reproof for the teachers of geometry; this is the only ſcience which has not produced ſectaries, and which is founded on analyſis, ſyntheſis, and calculation. Mathematics is buſied only concerning palpable truths; the method of teaching is therefore the ſame in all countries.

I ſhall, in like manner, be repectfully ſilent with regard to theology. This, it is ſaid, is a divine ſcience; and its holy veſſels muſt not be touched by the hands of the profane.

I think myſelf at liberty to act with leſs circumſpection relative to the profeſſors of hiſtory; and to ſubmit ſome ſmall doubts to their examination. I venture to aſk them whether the ſtudy of chronology be the moſt uſeful branch of hiſtory? Whether it be an unpardonable fault to miſtake the year in which Belus died; the day on which the horſe of Darius, by neighing, raiſed his maſter to the throne of Perſia; and the hour in which the Golden Bull was publiſhed; or whether it be a matter of infinite importance that it was at ſix o'clock in the morning, or four in the afternoon? For myſelf, I am ſatisfied to know what are the contents of the Golden Bull; and that this bull was promulgated in the year 1356. I do not, by this, mean to plead for hiſtorians who are guilty of anachroniſms; but I

ſhould certainly be more indulgent to miſtakes of that nature, than to errors of greater conſequence; ſuch as ſtating facts confuſedly; not developing cauſes, and their effects, with perſpicuity; neglecting method, and heavily dwelling on trifles, while they ſcarcely notice events the moſt eſſential.

My opinion is much the ſame concerning heraldry; nor do I think that a man of letters ought to be ſtoned to death, becauſe he has been unable to unravel the genealogy of Saint Helena, the mother of the emperor Conſtantine; or of Hildegarde, the wife or the miſtreſs of Charlemagne. What is neceſſary to be known only ſhould be taught; the reſt ſhould remain neglected.

My cenſures may perhaps be thought too ſevere. As nothing in this world is perfect, you will thence conclude that our language, our colleges, and our univerſities, muſt be imperfect likewiſe. You will add, that it is eaſy to criticiſe, difficult to perform; and that therefore, in order to do better, it is neceſſary thoſe rules ſhould be pointed out, which ought to be followed. This ſatisfaction, ſir, I am diſpoſed to give you. I am perſuaded that, if other nations have approached perfection, the ſame means are open to us, and that we have only to employ thoſe

means. I have long, in my moments of leiſure, been accuſtomed to reflect on theſe ſubjects; ſo that they are ſufficiently preſent to my imagination, to enable me to commit them to paper, and ſubmit them to your judgment. I make no pretenſion to infallibility.

Let us begin with the German language, which I accuſe of being difficult to manage, not ſufficiently ſonorous, diffuſe, and deficient in that abundance of metaphors and figures, which are ſo neceſſary to ſupply the writer with new turns, and impart elegance to poliſhed ſpeech. That we may diſcover the road we ought to travel, to arrive at this goal, let us examine the road which our neighbours have previouſly travelled, to attain the ſame purpoſe. In the time of Charlemagne, the Italians ſpoke a barbarous jargon; a mixture of words introduced by the Huns and Lombards, with ſome Latin phraſes, but ſuch as would have been unintelligible to the ears of Cicero, or of Virgil. This dialect remained in the ſame ſtate, during the barbarous ages that ſucceeded. At length, Dante appeared; his poetry charmed his readers; and the Italians began to imagine their language might become the ſucceſſor of that of the conquerors of the world. A little before, and during the revival of letters, Petrarch, Arioſto, Sannazar, and cardinal

dinal Bembo flouriſhed. It was the genius of theſe renowned writers that principally contributed to fix the Italian language. About the ſame time we find the academy de la Cruſca was formed, which watched over the preſervation and the purity of ſtyle.

I ſhall now revert to France; where I find that, at the court of Francis I. a jargon was ſpoken which at leaſt was as diſcordant as our German ſtill is; and, no offence to the admirers of Marot, Rabelais, and Montagne, the rude writings of theſe authors, deprived of grace, have only excited in me wearineſs and diſguſt. Toward the end of the reign of Henry IV. Malherbe appeared, who was the firſt poet France ſaw; or rather, to ſpeak more accurately, was, as a verſifier, leſs defective than his predeceſſors. To convince you that he had not brought his art to perfection, I need but call to your recollection the lines which you know exiſt in one of his odes:

" *Prends ta foudre, Louis, & va, comme un lion,*
" *Donner le dernier coup à la derniere tête de la rebellion**."

Who ever beheld a lion armed with thunder? Fable has armed the maſter of the gods with a

* Seize thy thunder, Louis, and go, like a lion, to give the laſt blow to the laſt head of rebellion.

thunderbolt, as it likewiſe has the eagle by which he is accompanied; but thunder was never the attribute of the lion.

Let us however leave Malherbe, and his inaccurate metaphors, that we may proceed to Corneille, Racine, Boileau, Boſſuet, Flèchier, Paſcal, Fénélon, Bourſault, and Vaugelas, the true fathers of the French language. By theſe its ſtyle has been formed, the uſe of words fixed, the phraſes rendered harmonious, and energy and ſtrength imparted to the obſolete, barbarous, and diſcordant jargon of their anceſtors. The works of theſe men of ſuperior genius were read with avidity; they were imitated by thoſe who had the gift of writing; and their ſtyle and taſte were diffuſed, and became common to the nation.

Suffer me here to pauſe a moment, only to remark that, in Greece and Italy, as well as in France, poets were the firſt who rendered their language flexible and harmonious; and thus prepared it for that eaſe and facility which are ſo neceſſary in proſe.

We will now tranſport ourſelves to England, where we ſhall find a picture ſimilar to that which I have ſketched of Italy and France. England had been ſubjugated by the Romans, the Saxons, the Danes, and finally by William the Conqueror, duke

duke of Normandy. From this confuſion of the languages of their conquerors, with the additional jargon which ſtill is ſpoken in the principality of Wales, the Engliſh tongue was formed. I have no need to inform you that, during theſe barbarous times, the Engliſh language was at leaſt as rude as thoſe which I have ſo lately mentioned. The revival of letters produced the ſame effects on all theſe nations. Europe was weary of the abject ignorance in which it had crawled during ſo many ages, and panted for knowledge. England, ever jealous of France, was emulous of her authors; and as, in order to write, a language was neceſſary, to the improvement of hers ſhe began to pay attention. That the progreſs might be more rapid, ſhe appropriated to herſelf, from the Latin, French, and Italian, all words of which ſhe ſuppoſed herſelf in want. Her writers became famous; but they were unable to ſoften the ſharp ſounds of a language which offends the ears of foreigners. Other idioms loſe by being tranſlated; the Engliſh only is a gainer *. I recollect once having been in

* The king knew nothing, or very little, of the Engliſh language; he muſt conſequently have heard this opinion from others, and have taken it upon truſt: it is therefore the leſs to be wondered at. Of hiſſing ſounds it may be obſerved, they

in company with ſome men of literature, when it was aſked what was the language in which the ſerpent addreſſed our firſt mother. In Engliſh, replied one of the erudite, for ſerpents hiſs. Take this joke for as much as it is worth.

After having ſhewn how languages have been improved by other nations, you will no doubt judge that, ſhould we employ the like means, we ſhould, in like manner, be ſucceſsful. We muſt therefore wait for great poets, and great orators, to render us this ſervice, which we ought not to expect from philoſophers; their attention muſt be directed to the deſtruction of error, and the diſcovery of new truths. Poets and orators are neceſſary, to enchant by their harmony, to move, and to perſuade. But we cannot appoint the day on which genius ſhall take birth. Let us, however, examine whether we may not

are offenſive; and are as numerous in the Engliſh as in any poliſhed language, perhaps more ſo. But other languages are by no means ſo free from them as this, now common-place, remark would inſinuate. They are, for inſtance, abundant in the French, to which their pronouns *ce*, *cette*, *celle*, &c. greatly contribute. Examples innumerable might be cited; accept the very words in which the king complains—"*Mais ils ne purent adoucir ces ſons aigus*," &c.

Accept the following likewiſe—"*Mais étoit ce à vous, étoit "ce à ſa fille de s'en charger?*"—*Numa Pompilius, par M. de Florian, livre* vi. *p.* 182, *edition de Didot, en* 8*vo*, 1786. T.

make

make ſome progreſs, by the uſe of intermediate aid.

To render our ſtyle laconic, we ought to retrench every uſeleſs parentheſis; and, to acquire energy, we ſhould tranſlate thoſe among the ancients who have expreſſed themſelves with the greateſt force and elegance. From the Greeks let us ſelect Thucydides and Xenophon, not forgetting the Poetics of Ariſtotle. Let us pay particular attention to impart to Demoſthenes his full vigour. From the Latins let us chooſe the Manuel of Epictetus, the thoughts of the emperor Marcus Aurelius, the Commentaries of Cæſar, the writings of Salluſt and Tacitus, and the Art of Poetry by Horace. The French will furniſh us with the Maxims of Rochefoucault, the Perſian Letters, and the Spirit of Laws. All the books I have here propoſed have, in general, been written in a ſententious ſtyle, and will oblige their tranſlators to avoid indolent expreſſions, and ſuperfluous words. Our writers would thus employ their whole ſagacity in contracting their phraſeology, that their tranſlations might poſſeſs the ſtrength which has been ſo much admired in their originals. Nor muſt they neglect, while in queſt of energy, an attention to perſpicuity. That the latter may be preſerved, the firſt duty of every writer is, that

he ſhould never depart from grammatical rules; and that he ſhould place the verb, which ſhould govern the ſentence, ſo that there may be no ambiguity in the ſenſe. Tranſlations, thus performed, would remain as models, from the ſtudy of which our authors might form themſelves. We then might hope we had followed the precept which Horace gives in his Art of Poetry—*Tot verba tot pondera.*

To ſoften the harſh ſounds which are ſo frequent and ſo common to moſt of the words of our language, will be more difficult: the ear delights in vowels, and is ſhocked by a ſuperabundance of conſonants, becauſe they are difficult to pronounce, and are not ſonorous. We have likewiſe numerous active auxiliary verbs, the laſt ſyllables of which diſagreeably expire in the pronunciation; ſuch as *ſagen*, *geben*, *nehmen*. Add the letter *a* to theſe terminations, and make *ſagena*, *gebena*, *nehmena*, and the ſounds produced would flatter the ear. But I need not be told that, were the Emperor himſelf, with his eight electors, in a ſolemn diet of the Empire, to make a law that theſe words ſhould be thus pronounced, the zealous adherents to the Teutonic tongue would laugh at them and their law, and would every where exclaim, in excellent Latin—*Cæſar non eſt ſuper grammaticos*; and the multitude, who

who govern languages in all countries, would continue to pronounce *ſagen* and *geben*, as before. The French have, in pronunciation, ſoftened many words which ſhock the ear, and which occaſioned the emperor Julian to ſay that the Gauls croaked like ravens. The following words at that time were pronounced *cro-jo-gent*, *voi-yai-gent*; and are now altered to *croyent*, *voyent*. If not pleaſing, they are at leaſt not diſagreeable, at preſent; and in my opinion we might take the ſame liberty with certain words.

There is another vice which I ought not to forget; I mean low and trivial ſimiles, ſelected from the jargon of the vulgar. Here follows an example of the manner in which a poet expreſſed himſelf, in his dedication to I know not what patron—"*Schieſs, groſſer gönner, ſchiſs deine "ſtrahlen, arm dick, auf deinen knecht hernieder.*" —"Expand, great patron, expand thy rays, "thick as the arm, on thy ſervant."—What ſay you to rays as thick as the arm? Ought we not to have adviſed this poet to have learned to think, before he undertook to write? Let us not imitate paupers who wiſh to be thought wealthy; let us frankly acknowledge our poverty, that we may thereby be the more encouraged induſtriouſly to acquire the wealth of literature, the

poſſeſſion

poſſeſſion of which will complete our national glory.

After having diſplayed the manner in which our language might be formed, let me entreat you to pay equal attention to the meaſures that might be taken to extend the ſphere of our knowledge, and to increaſe the facility and uſefulneſs of education, as well as to form the taſte of youth.

Firſt I ſhould propoſe a more ſelect choice of profeſſors, to ſuperintend the claſſes; and that theſe profeſſors ſhould be preſcribed a more ſage and judicious method of inſtruction, by which they ſhould teach grammar, logic, and rhetoric. I ſhall add that the induſtrious ſcholars ought to be diſtinguiſhed, and the indolent ſlightly diſgraced.

The beſt treatiſe of logic, and at the ſame time the moſt efficacious, is, as I believe, that of M. Wolf. This therefore the profeſſor ought to be obliged to teach; eſpecially ſince the work of Batteux is not tranſlated; nor, indeed, is it ſuperior to the former.

With reſpect to rhetoric, Quintilian ought only to be taught. Whoever ſhall ſtudy Quintilian, and not attain eloquence, will never be an orator. The ſtyle of his work is clear, and contains

contains every precept, and every rule. But it will be neceſſary that maſters ſhould carefully examine the themes of pupils, and explain the reaſons why they correct the miſtake; not neglecting to praiſe the paſſages in which they have been ſucceſsful.

Were teachers to follow the method I propoſe, they would develope hidden merit, and cauſe the ſeed to ſpring up which nature has ſown; they would improve the judgment of their ſcholars, by accuſtoming them not to decide without knowing why, and to draw juſt concluſions from their principles. Rhetoric would render the mind methodical; would teach them to arrange their ideas, and to add and connect them with each other, by tranſitions at once natural, imperceptible, and happy. They would learn to proportion the ſtyle to the ſubject; to uſe figurative language in proper places, as well to give variety as to ſcatter flowers over paſſages that are capable of embelliſhment. Nor would they employ mixed metaphors, which would but preſent confuſion to the mind of the reader. Rhetoric would further teach them to ſelect ſuch arguments as might beſt be adapted to the auditors whom they mean to addreſs. They would learn to inſinuate themſelves into the heart; to pleaſe, to move, to excite indignation

nation or compaſſion, and to perſuade, and wreſt univerſal applauſe from their hearers. How divine is that art which, by the uſe of ſpeech alone, without the aid of ſtrength or violence, can captivate all minds, reign over all hearts, and can incite, in an aſſembled multitude, all the paſſions of which men are ſuſceptible!

Were good authors tranſlated into our language, I ſhould recommend reading of them, as the thing moſt neceſſary, moſt important. Thus, for example, nothing better could form logicians than the Commentary of Bayle on Comets, and on — *Compel them to come in**. Bayle, according to my feeble judgment, is the firſt of the logicians of Europe: he not only reaſons with energy, and preciſion, but is peculiarly excellent in perceiving, at a glance, the whole which a propoſition contains; its feeble and its ſtrong ſide; how it may be maintained, and how thoſe who attack it may be refuted. In his Dictionary he cenſures Ovid concerning the formation of the chaos; and has there written excellent articles on the Manicheans, on Epicurus, on Zoroaſter, &c. Theſe all merit to be read and ſtudied; and the youth who ſhould

* That is, on conſtraint in religious opinions. T.

appropriate

appropriate to themſelves the reaſoning powers, and the ſtrong penetration, of this great man, would obtain an ineſtimable advantage.

You will eaſily divine the authors I ſhould recommend to thoſe who would ſtudy eloquence. That they might learn to ſacrifice to the Graces, I ſhould wiſh them to read the great poets; Homer, Virgil, ſome ſelect odes of Horace, and ſome of the poems of Anacreon: and, that they might acquire an impaſſioned taſte for eloquence, I ſhould put Demoſthenes and Cicero into their hands, with a wiſh that they ſhould be taught what are the different merits of theſe great orators. To the firſt nothing can be added; from the ſecond nothing can be retrenched. Their works ought to be followed by the beautiful funeral orations of Boſſuet and Flèchier, the Demoſthenes and Cicero of France; and by the little Carême (Lent) of Maſſillon, which abounds in traits of the moſt ſublime eloquence.

That they might learn the manner in which hiſtory ought to be written, I ſhould wiſh them to read Livy, Salluſt, and Tacitus; and that dignity of ſtyle, and beauty of narrative, ſhould be pointed out to them: not neglecting to condemn the credulity with which Livy, at the end of each year, gives a liſt of miracles, each more

ridiculous than its predeceſſor. Youth might then peruſe the Univerſal Hiſtory of Boſſuet; and the Revolutions of the Romans, by the abbé de Vertot; to which might be added the Introduction to the Hiſtory of Charles V. by Robertſon.

Theſe would be the means to form their taſte, and teach them how to write. But, if the profeſſor himſelf be in want of knowledge, he would ſatisfy himſelf with telling his pupils—"In this "paſſage Demoſthenes employed the grand "oratorical argument; here, and in the greateſt "part of the diſcourſe, he has profited by the "*enthymeme*; this is the *apoſtrophe*, this the *proſopopœia*; now we come to the *metaphor*, and "now to the *hyperbole*." All this is right. But ought not the maſter to explain the beauties of the author with more perſpicuity? Should he paſs over his defects (for the greateſt orators have their defects) he will not have performed his duty. I ſtrongly inſiſt on theſe things, becauſe I require that youth ſhould leave their ſeminaries with clear ideas; and, not ſatisfied with having loaded the memory, that their judgments ſhould be induſtriouſly formed, that they may learn to diſcriminate between the good and the bad; and, when they ſay this delights, this offends me, that they may be able to give good

reaſons why they approve, and why they reject.

To convince yourſelf of the little taſte which has hitherto predominated in Germany, you need but repair to the public theatres. There you will ſee the abominable productions of Shakeſpeare*, tranſlated into our language, performed; while the whole audience are dying with pleaſure, as they liſten to ridiculous farces, worthy of the ſavages of America. I call them thus, becauſe they offend againſt all the rules of the theatre; rules not in themſelves arbitrary; rules that you will find in the Poetics of Ariſtotle, in which the unities of time, place, and action, are preſcribed, as the only means of rendering tragedies affecting: whereas, in theſe Engliſh plays, the time is protracted to the duration of years. Where is probability? Now we behold porters and grave-diggers, who appear and hold diſcourſe worthy of themſelves; and afterward enter princes and queens. How can ſo ſtrange a mixture of grandeur and meanneſs, tragedy and farce, affect and pleaſe? Shakeſpeare may be pardoned ſuch caprice, becauſe the birth of the arts is never their point of perfection.

* Any vindication of Shakeſpeare would be ridiculous; let his abominable productions vindicate themſelves. T.

But

But here have we a *Gætz von Berlichingen** who makes his appearance, a deteſtable imitation of theſe bad Engliſh productions; and the pit applauds, and enthuſiaſtically demands a repetition of ſuch diſguſting dulneſs. Taſte, I know, muſt not be diſputed. Permit me however to obſerve, that thoſe who are as much pleaſed by rope-dancers, and puppet-ſhows, as by the tragedies of Racine, only deſire to kill time; they prefer that which ſpeaks to their eyes to that which appeals to the underſtanding; and delight in ſhows more than in the paſſions of the heart. Let us return to our ſubject.

After having mentioned the lower claſſes, it is requiſite I ſhould act with equal frankneſs reſpecting our univerſities; and ſhould propoſe ſuch improvements as appear to be the moſt advantageous, and the moſt uſeful, to all who will give themſelves the trouble maturely to reflect. It muſt not be imagined that the method purſued by the profeſſors, to teach the ſciences, is a thing of indifference. Should they be deficient in perſpicuity, their labour will be loſt. They have their courſe of lectures ready prepared, to which they add nothing. No one

* A hiſtorical play of great fame in Germany; written by M. Gœthe, the celebrated author of the Sorrows of Werter. T.

enquires

enquires whether theſe lectures be well or ill written; and thus we ſee the little advantage which is derived from ſuch ſtudies. Few ſtudents depart from hearing them, with the knowledge they ought to have obtained. My opinion is that the rule which each profeſſor ought to follow, in his public inſtructions, ought to be preſcribed. The following is an outline of my meaning. We will throw geometry and theology on one ſide; becauſe nothing can be added to the demonſtration of the firſt, and becauſe the popular opinions, with regard to the ſecond, will not admit of being offended.

I come firſt to philoſophy, and require that the courſe ſhould begin by an exact definition of what is meant by philoſophy; that afterward the moſt diſtant ages ſhould be reverted to, and all the different opinions which men have maintained, according to the order of time in which they flouriſhed, and taught their doctrines, ſhould be related. Thus, for example, it will not be ſufficient to ſay that the ſyſtem of the Stoics taught, among other things, that the human ſoul was a part of the Deity. However ſublime the idea may be, it is requiſite the profeſſor ſhould remark it implies a contradiction. Becauſe, were man a part of the Deity, he muſt poſſeſs infinite knowledge, and this he does not

poſſeſs: becauſe, were God and man the ſame, it would prove that the Engliſh god is now at war with the god of the French and the Spaniards; that theſe various parts of the Deity are endeavouring to effect reciprocal deſtruction; and that, in fine, all the wickedneſs, all the crimes, committed by men would be divine acts. How many abſurdities would not a doctrine ſo horrible admit? The conſequence is, it is falſe.

In examining the ſyſtem of Epicurus, the profeſſor ought particularly to dwell on the impaſſibility, which that philoſopher attributed to his gods, and which is contrary to the divine nature. He would not forget to inſiſt on the abſurdity of the declination of atoms; and on all which is repugnant to the accuracy, and connexion, of argument.

He would no doubt mention the Acataleptic ſect, and the neceſſity in which men often are of ſuſpending their judgment, on metaphyſical ſubjects; in which analogy, and experience, are unable to afford the clue that may conduct us through the labyrinth.

He would afterward come to Galileo, and would give a clear abſtract of his ſyſtem. He would not fail to dwell on the abſurdity of the Roman clergy, who inſiſted that the earth ſhould

not turn round; who took infinite offence at the Antipodes; and who, however infallible they might think themſelves, for once loſt their cauſe, at the judgment ſeat of reaſon.

He would next attend to Copernicus, Tycho Brahe, and the ſyſtem of the vortices. He would demonſtrate, to his auditors, the impoſſibility of a plenum, which muſt oppoſe all motion; he would demonſtrate, in deſpite of Deſcartes, that animals are not machines.

He would next come to an abridgment of the Newtonian ſyſtem; of the vacuum, which muſt be admitted, without allowing it to be affirmed that it is a negation of exiſtence; or that vacuity is a being of the nature of which we cannot obtain any preciſe idea. This would not prevent the profeſſor from informing his hearers of the perfect agreement that exiſts between this ſyſtem, as calculated by Newton, and the phenomena of nature; and that thus the moderns have been obliged to admit of weight, of gravity, and of the centripetal and centrifugal powers, as of occult properties in nature, which, till our times, had remained undiſcovered.

It would then be the turn of Leibnitz, of the ſyſtem of the monades, and of that of pre-eſtabliſhed harmony. The profeſſor would no doubt remark that, without unity, there cannot be

number; therefore, inſecable, indiviſible bodies muſt be admitted, for the formation of matter. He will further obſerve that, in idea, matter may be infinitely divided; but that, in practice, the primordial bodies, by being too minute, eſcape our ſenſes; and that indeſtructable primordial parts muſt inevitably exiſt, which ſerve as the principles of the elements: for nothing can ſpring out of nothing; and nothing does not annihilate itſelf. The profeſſor would repreſent the ſyſtem of pre-eſtabliſhed harmony as the romance of a man of genius; and would, no doubt, add that nature takes the ſhorteſt road to obtain her purpoſe. He would remark that beings muſt not be multiplied, without neceſſity.

Spinoſa would then come under conſideration, whom he would refute without difficulty, by the uſe of the ſame arguments which he employed againſt the Stoics. And, ſhould he examine this ſyſtem on the ſide on which it appears to deny the exiſtence of the firſt Being, nothing would be more eaſy than to reduce it to duſt: eſpecially ſhould he point out the deſtination of each thing, and the end for which it was formed. All things, even to the vegetation of a blade of graſs, prove a Deity; and, if man enjoy a degree of intelligence, which he did not give himſelf, this muſt ſtill more ſtrongly ſhew that the Being, of whom he

he holds all things, has a mind infinitely more profound, and more immenſe, than the mind beſtowed on man.

Our profeſſor will not leave Mallebranche entirely unnoticed. While developing the principles of this learned father of the oratory, he will ſhew that the conſequences, which naturally reſult from them, would bring us back to the doctrine of the Stoics, and to the univerſal ſoul, of which all animated beings are but parts. If we ſee all things in God, if our ſenſations, our thoughts, our wiſhes, our will, emanate immediately from the intellectual operations of our organs, we muſt become no more than machines, put in motion by the hand of the Deity. God alone would remain, and man would diſappear.

I flatter myſelf that, if our good profeſſor poſſeſſed common ſenſe, he would not forget the ſage Locke; the only one of the metaphyſicians who has ſacrificed imagination at the ſhrine of reaſon; who followed experience as far as experience could lead; and who prudently ſtopped when forſaken by this guide.

If ethics be the queſtion, the profeſſor would briefly diſcourſe on Socrates; would do juſtice to Marcus Aurelius; and would more amply diſcuſs the Offices of Cicero, the beſt work on morality that ever has been or ever will be written.

To phyſicians I ſhall only ſay two words. Their great care ought to be, to accuſtom their pupils attentively to examine the ſymptoms of diſeaſes, that their ſpecies may be perfectly underſtood. Symptoms are various: a rapid yet feeble pulſe; a pulſe ſtrong, and violent; an intermitting pulſe; a dry tongue; the look of the eyes; the nature of the perſpiration; the ſecretions; that is, the urine and the fæces; from all which inductions might be drawn, on which to form a vague eſtimate, of the kind of maraſmus which occaſions the malady. Guided by this knowledge he muſt ſelect proper remedies. The profeſſor muſt carefully make his ſcholars obſerve the prodigious difference there is between temperaments, and the attention which this difference requires; he muſt teach them to purſue the ſame diſeaſe through various conſtitutions, and muſt principally inſiſt on the neceſſity of obſerving how properly proportioned the ſame medicine ought to be, to the competency of the temperament of the patient. I dare not, nevertheleſs, preſume that, with all theſe inſtructions, the young ſons of Eſculapius will work miracles: the only advantage to the public will be that, there will not be ſo many citizens killed, by the ignorance, or by the indolence, of phyſicians.

For

For brevity's ſake, I ſhall omit botany, chymiſtry, and philoſophic experiments, that I may encounter the formidable profeſſor of law, who contemplates me with a rigorous brow. I ſhall addreſs him thus: "This, ſir, is no lon-
"ger the age of words; we now are come to
"things. Let me requeſt, for the public be-
"nefit, that you would deign to infuſe a little
"leſs pedantry, and a little more good ſenſe,
"through the profound leſſons which you ima-
"gine you inculcate. It were loſt time, ſir,
"to teach a code of nations, which would not
"be the code of individuals; which the pow-
"erful would not reſpect, and from which the
"weak could derive no aſſiſtance. You en-
"doctrine your ſcholars in the laws of Minos,
"of Solon, of Lycurgus, of the twelve tables of
"Rome, and the Juſtinian code; yet you ſay
"not a word, or very few words, concerning the
"laws, and cuſtoms, peculiar to our provinces.
"To appeaſe you, we promiſe you to believe
"that your brain is compoſed of the quinteſ-
"ſence of thoſe of Cujas and Bartholo, mixed
"up together; but deign to conſider that no-
"thing is more precious than time; and time
"which is loſt, in uſeleſs phraſeology, is a
"waſte; for which, were any one accuſed be-
"fore your tribunal, you would adjudge the pu-

" niſhment of ſequeſtration. Permit me there-
" fore, ſir, all erudite though you be, and
" ignorant as I am, I ſay, encourage my
" timidity ſo far as to ſuffer me to propoſe
" a ſpecies of legal lectures, ſuch as might
" form an inſtructive courſe.

" You would begin, ſir, by proving the ne-
" ceſſity of laws, and ſhew that no ſociety can
" exiſt without their aid. You would point
" out the difference between civil and criminal
" laws, and ſuch as are only laws of conven-
" tion. The firſt are uſeful for the ſecurity of
" property, whether of inheritance, of portion,
" of dowry, of contract, of purchaſe, or of ſale;
" they explain the principles which ſerve as
" rules to decide limits, as well as to render
" the rights in litigation explicit. The intent
" of criminal laws is rather to prevent than
" puniſh crimes; the pains inflicted ought to
" be proportionate to the guilt, and the moſt
" gentle ſhould on every occaſion be preferred
" to the exceſs of rigor. Laws of convention
" are thoſe which government eſtabliſh, to fa-
" vour commerce and labour. The two firſt
" ſpecies of laws are of a ſtable nature; the
" laſt is ſubject to changes, as well from in-
" ternal as external cauſes, which may occaſion
" ſome to be abrogated, and others enacted.

" This

"This preamble, good Mr. Profeſſor, being "delivered with all neceſſary perſpicuity, with- "out conſulting either Grotius or Puffendorff, "you will afterward have the goodneſs to ana- "lyze the laws of the country where you reſide. "You will be particularly careful not to inſpire "your pupils with the ſpirit of litigation. In- "ſtead of teaching them to embroil, you will "teach them to unravel; and you will take "all poſſible care to infuſe a ſpirit of juſtice, "conviction, and preciſion into your leſſons. "To form your diſciples to this method, from "their youth, you will take due care to inſpire "them with a contempt for a litigious propen- "ſity, which ſophiſticates all that comes before "it, and which ſeems to be an inexhauſtible "receptacle of ſubtilties, and chicanery."

I now addreſs myſelf to the profeſſor of hiſtory, and propoſe the learned and celebrated Thomaſius to him as a model, whoſe excellence ſhould he approach, he will gain a great degree of reputation; and ſhould he equal this great man, fame will be his reward. He will begin his courſe of lectures, according to the order of time, with ancient hiſtory; with modern he will conclude. He will omit no people, in this ſucceſſion of ages; he will neither forget the Chineſe, the Ruſſians, Poland, nor the

the North; as M. Boſſuet has happened to do, whoſe work in other reſpects is highly eſtimable. Our profeſſor will pay peculiar attention to the hiſtory of Germany; as being, to Germans, that which is moſt intereſting. He will however beware of entering into enquiries too minute, and of diſturbing oblivion concerning origin, of which we want proofs, and which to us is an enquiry of little utility. He will glide over, without reſting too long, on the ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth centuries: on the thirteenth he will become more diffuſe; for hiſtory then became more intereſting.

In proportion as he advances, he will enter more circumſtantially into his ſubject, becauſe facts will become more connected with the hiſtory of our own times. He will particularly dwell on events which have been attended with conſiderable effects, rather than on thoſe which, if I may venture ſo to expreſs myſelf, expired without deſcendants. The profeſſor will remark the origin of claims, cuſtoms, and laws; and will ſhew on what occaſions they were eſtabliſhed, in the Empire. It will be requiſite for him to notice the epocha when the imperial cities became free, and what their privileges were; as well as how the Hanſe, or the league of the Hanſiatic cities, was formed; how the biſhoprics

biſhoprics and abbeys became principalities; and will explain, as far as he is able, the manner in which the electors acquired the right of electing the emperors. Nor will the different forms under which juſtice has been adminiſtered, in this ſucceſſion of ages, be omitted.

But the profeſſor will exert his utmoſt diſcernment, and knowledge, on events that have happened ſince Charles V.; an epocha when every thing became intereſting, and memorable. He will attentively unravel, to the beſt of his abilities, what were the cauſes of great events. Without reſpect to perſons, he will praiſe the noble actions which have rendered men illuſtrious, and will blame the faults of thoſe by whom faults have been committed. This was the age in which the religious troubles began; and the profeſſor will treat that part of his ſubject like a philoſopher; troubles that gave riſe to the ſucceeding wars. Intereſts ſo great will be treated with the dignity they deſerve.

At this period we perceive Sweden taking part againſt the emperor, and the profeſſor will explain what induced Guſtavus Adolphus to tranſport himſelf into Germany; and what were the reaſons of France, for declaring in behalf of Sweden, and the proteſtant cauſe. But the profeſſor will not repeat the old miſtakes, which

have

have been propagated by credulous hiſtorians; he will not affirm Guſtavus Adolphus was killed by a German prince, who ſerved in his army; becauſe the thing is neither true, proved, nor probable.

The peace of Weſtphalia will require a more circumſtantial detail, becauſe that peace became the baſis of the freedom of Germany, a law which confined imperial ambition within its juſt limits, and on which our preſent conſtitution is founded.

The profeſſor will afterward relate what happened under the reigns of the emperors Leopold, Joſeph I. and Charles VI. A field ſo vaſt will furniſh ſufficient exerciſe for his erudition, and his genius; particularly ſhould he neglect nothing eſſential.

He will not forget, after having narrated all the memorable facts of each age, to render an account of the received opinions of the men who moſt diſtinguiſhed themſelves, by their talents, their diſcoveries, and their works; and will be careful not to omit mentioning foreigners, who were the cotemporaries of the Germans, on whom he may diſcourſe.

I imagine that, after having thus examined the hiſtory of ſucceſſive nations, it would be rendering ſervice to the ſtudents were the materials

rials all to be collected, and laid before them, in one general view. In a work like this, chronological order would be neceſſary; that no confuſion of times might reſult, and that they might be taught to place each important fact in its proper order; cotemporary by the ſide of cotemporary. And, that the memory might be the leſs loaded with dates, it would be good to fix the attention of thoſe epochas when the moſt important revolutions happened: they are ſo many reſting places for the memory: pictures which it eaſily retains, and which prevent a hiſtorical chaos ſo immenſe from being jumbled, in confuſion, in the minds of youth.

A courſe of hiſtory, ſuch as I propoſe, ought to be well digeſted, profoundly reflected on, and exempt from all minutia. It would neither be the Theatrum Europæum, nor the Hiſtory of the Germans, by M. de Bunau, which the profeſſor ought to conſult: I ſhould rather wiſh him to read the papers of Thomaſius, if any of them be ſtill to be found. What ſpectacle could be more intereſting, what more inſtructive, what more neceſſary, to a young man, entering into life, than to take a retroſpect of the ſucceſſive viciſſitudes, which have ſo changed the face of earth? Where will he better learn to eſtimate the nullity of human actions

than

than by walking amid the ruins of kingdoms, and empires, the moſt vaſt; or than by a maſs of crimes like thoſe which muſt paſs in perſpective before him? How great will be his pleaſure, occaſionally to diſcover thoſe virtuous and divine minds, which ſeem to petition, to claim a pardon, for the perverſity of the human race! Theſe are models which he ought to imitate. He has ſeen a multitude of fortunate men, ſurrounded by paraſites; death ſtrikes the Idol, Adulation flies, Truth appears, and the cries of the public, againſt the abominable crimes committed, inſtantly drown the voice of the flatterer.

I pleaſe myſelf with imagining the profeſſor will have good ſenſe enough to point out, to his diſciples, the limits which diſtinguiſh a noble emulation from thoſe of unbounded ambition; and that he will lead them to reflect on the various paſſions, which have brought monarchies the moſt vaſt to deſtruction. He will prove, by a hundred examples, that good morality has ever been the true guardian of empires; and that they have owed their corruption to the introduction of luxury, and the extravagant love of riches, which have at all times been the harbingers of their fall.

Should the profeſſor follow the plan I propoſe,

poſe, he will not ſatisfy himſelf with burthening the memory of his ſcholars with mere facts, but will labour to form their judgment, to correct their manner of thinking, and eſpecially to inſpire them with a love of virtue; which, if I miſtake not, would be preferable to all the undigeſted learning, with which the minds of young people are loaded.

The general reſult of all which I have ſaid, is that zealous and eager application ought to be paid, to the tranſlation of all the claſſic authors, in ancient and modern languages, into our own tongue; by which we ſhould procure the double advantage, of forming our idiom and of rendering knowledge more univerſal, by naturalizing all theſe good authors. They would enrich us with new ideas, with the beauties of their diction, their elegance, and their graces. How great would be the knowledge which the public would acquire! Of twenty-ſix millions of inhabitants, which are eſtimated to be the population of Germany, I do not believe that a hundred thouſand among them well underſtand the Latin language; eſpecially were the race of prieſts and monks to be ſubtracted; who ſcarcely underſtand Latin enough to be able indifferently to explain the rules of ſyntax. Thus are there a hundred and twenty-five millions

lions nine hundred thouſand ſouls deprived of knowledge, becauſe they cannot acquire it, in the vulgar tongue. What alteration more advantageous could happen to us, than that of rendering the knowledge of the ancients more general, more expanſive? The country gentleman would make ſuch a ſelection, for his reading, as would be convenient to him; and, while amuſing himſelf, would gain inſtruction; the heavy citizen would become leſs booriſh; the idle would find a ſource of employment for time, by which they are wearied; a taſte for the belles lettres would become general, and would extend amenity, gentleneſs, and the graces through ſociety; while it would afford inexhauſtible materials for converſation. From this colliſion of wits a nicety of *tact*, of diſcernment, would reſult, and of that good taſte which is ſo prompt to ſeize the beautiful, reject mediocrity, and contemn what is contemptible. The public, thus become enlightened, would oblige new authors to be more aſſiduous, more careful, over their works; and not to publiſh them, till they ſhould firſt have been well corrected, and poliſhed.

The progreſs which I intimate, is not the child of my imagination; it is that of all poliſhed people; nor is there any other. The more

more a love of letters ſhould prevail, the greater diſtinctions might thoſe who cultivate them with the moſt ſuperiority expect; and the example of ſuch would animate others. Germany produces men laborious in reſearch, men of genius, philoſophers, and whatever can be deſired: a Prometheus only is wanting, who ſhould ſteal the celeſtial fire, by which it were to be wiſhed they were animated.

The ſoil which has produced the famous Des Vignes, chancellor of the unfortunate emperor Frederic II; the country in which thoſe were born who wrote the letters of obſcure men, greatly ſuperior to their age, thoſe which are the models of Rabelais; the ſoil which produced the famous Eraſmus, whoſe Eulogium on Folly abounds in wit, and which would ſtill more abound, were ſome dull monkiſh jokes retrenched, which partake of the bad taſte of the times; the country which gave birth to Melanchthon, as ſage as he was erudite—I ſay, the ſoil which has produced theſe great men is not exhauſted, but will give birth to many others.

How many other great men indeed might I not add? I boldly enumerate, among the Germans, Copernicus, who rectified the planetary ſyſtem, by his calculations, and proved what

Ptolemy * ventured to advance, ſome thouſands of years before. And to him I may add a monk, who, in another part of Germany, diſcovered, by chemical operations, the aſtoniſhing effects of gunpowder: while a third invented the art of printing, that happy art which perpetuates good books, and enables the world to acquire knowledge at little expence. Not to omit Otto Geric, an inventive genius, to whom we are indebted for the air-pump; and certainly not to forget the celebrated Leibnitz, with whoſe name Europe has reſounded, and who, though his imagination led him into ſome viſionary ſyſtems, muſt be allowed, even when wandering in uncertainty, to wander like a man of ſublime genius. I might ſwell the liſt with the names of Thomaſius, Bilfinger, Haller, and many others; but the preſent times impoſe ſilence. The praiſes of ſome would humble the vanity of others.

I foreſee it will perhaps be objected to me that, during the wars of Italy, Picus Mirandula was ſeen to flouriſh. This I allow, but he was only a man of learning. It will be added that, while Cromwell ſubverted the laws of his country, and cauſed his king to be be-

* This I have no doubt is an error of the preſs; the king certainly wrote Pythagoras. T.

headed

headed on a ſcaffold, Toland * publiſhed his Leviathan; and that, ſoon after, Milton ſuffered his Paradiſe Loſt to ſee the light; that, during the reign of queen Elizabeth, chancellor Bacon had already enlightened Europe, and had become the oracle of philoſophy, by indicating diſcoveries then to be made, and the path that was to be followed for the attainment of this end; that during the wars of Louis XIV. good authors of every kind increaſed the fame of France. And why, it will be aſked, did the wars of Germany prove more fatal to literature than the wars of our neighbours? This queſtion I can eaſily anſwer. Letters in Italy did not really flouriſh, except under the protection of Laurent de Medicis, of pope Leo X. and of the houſe of Eſte. There were, in theſe times, ſome occaſional wars; but none that were deſtructive: and Italy, emulous of the glory which would reſult to her from the revival of the fine arts, encouraged their revival, as far as her powers would permit.

The unrelenting politics of the fanaticiſm of Cromwell, in England, attacked only the throne: cruel toward his king, he governed the nation

* The king was little acquainted with Engliſh authors, except through the medium of French writers.——Read Hobbs. T.

wiſely. Thus the commerce of that iſland was never more flouriſhing, than under his protectorſhip. The Behemoth could not be regarded as any thing more than the libel of a faction. The Paradiſe Loſt, no doubt, was of greater worth. Milton was a man of ſtrong imagination, who had conceived the ſubject of his poem from one of the religious farces which, in his time, continued to be acted in Italy. And it ought to be particularly remarked that England was then opulent, and at peace. Chancellor Bacon, who became illuſtrious under Elizabeth, lived in a poliſhed court; he had the penetrating eyes of Jove's eagle, to ſcrutinize the ſciences; and the wiſdom of Minerva, to reduce them to order. The genius of Bacon reſembled thoſe phenomena, thoſe men of genius, that only appear at great diſtances from each other; and who do as much honour to the age in which they live, as to the human mind.

The adminiſtration of cardinal de Richelieu had, in France, been preparatory to the fine age of Louis XIV. Knowledge began to be expanded. The war of the Fronde was but the ſport of boys. Louis XIV., covetous of every kind of fame, was deſirous that his nation ſhould be the firſt in literature and good taſte, as well as in power, in conqueſt, in commerce, and in policy.

policy. He carried his victorious arms into foreign lands. France prided herſelf in the ſucceſs of her monarch, without feeling the ravages of war. It was therefore natural that the muſes, who delight in repoſe and abundance, ſhould take up their abode in his kingdom.

But you ought, ſir, particularly to remark that, in Italy, England and France, the firſt men of letters, and their ſucceſſors, wrote in their own language. The public eagerly read their works, and knowledge was generally ſpread through the whole nation. With us it was very different: our religious wars ſupplied us with ſome diſputants, who, obſcurely diſcuſſing unintelligible ſubjects, ſupported and oppoſed the very ſame arguments, and intermingled ſophiſm and abuſe.

Our firſt men of learning were, as in other countries, men who ſtored their memories with fact after fact, and were pedants without taſte; ſuch as Lipſius, Freinſhemius, Gronovius, and Grævius; the dull reſtorers of ſome few obſcure phraſes, which they diſcovered in ancient manuſcripts. Their labours, to a certain point, might be uſeful; but men ought not to apply themſelves wholly to minute trifles, which certainly are of little importance.

The thing moſt to be lamented was that the

pedantic vanity of theſe gentlemen aſpired to the applauſe of all Europe. In part to make a parade of their excellent Latin, and in part to be admired by foreign pedants, they wrote only in that language; ſo that their works were loſt almoſt to the whole of Germany. Two inconveniences reſulted from this; firſt, the German language, not being cultivated, remained loaded with its ancient ruſt; and, again, the majority of the nation, not underſtanding Latin, could not gain inſtruction, becauſe they were unacquainted with the dead languages, but continued to grovel in the loweſt ignorance.

Theſe are truths, to which no anſwer can be given. Let the literati occaſionally remember that the ſciences are the food of the mind; the memory, receiving them, may be compared to the ſtomach: but a vitiated habit is the conſequence, if the digeſtive faculty of judgment be not employed. If knowledge be wealth, it is wealth that ought not to be buried, but profited by, and generally diſperſed, among the maſs of citizens, in a known tongue.

Men of letters have but lately been daring enough to write in their native language, and not to bluſh at being Germans. You know it is not long ſince the firſt dictionary of the German language was publiſhed. I am aſhamed to

remem-

remember that a work ſo uſeful is not a hundred years older than I myſelf am. However, we begin to perceive that a change is effecting in the minds of men; national fame begins to be heard; we are ambitious of being the equals of our neighbours, and are deſirous to form roads, for ourſelves, to the Parnaſſian mount, and the temple of fame. People of nice diſcernment have already begun to remark this effect. Let claſſical works, ancient and modern, be tranſlated into the German language. If we wiſh money ſhould circulate at home, let us diſtribute it among the public: let us render the wealth of the ſciences common, wealth that was formerly ſo rare.

To omit nothing which has retarded our progreſs, I ſhall notice how little the German is ſpoken in moſt of the courts of our princes. Under the reign of the emperor Joſeph I. Italian was the language of the court; Spaniſh prevailed under Charles VI.; and, during the government of Francis I. who was a native of Lorraine, French was ſpoken more familiarly, at his court, than German. It was the ſame in the electoral courts. And what could be the reaſon? I repeat, ſir, becauſe the Spaniſh, Italian, and French, were languages formed, and fixed; ours was not.

But let us conſole ourſelves; the ſame thing happened in France, under Francis I. Charles IX. and Henry III. Spaniſh and Italian were more frequently ſpoken, in good company, than French; the national language was not in faſhion till it became poliſhed, perſpicacious, and elegant; nor till an infinity of claſſical works had embelliſhed it by their pictureſque expreſſions, and at the ſame time fixed its grammatical progreſs. Under the reign of Louis XIV. the French became common over all Europe: this partly originated in the love borne to the authors who then flouriſhed; and partly in the excellent tranſlations from the ancients which then were made. That language is now become the paſſport, which introduces the traveller into all houſes, and all cities. From Liſbon to Peterſburg, from Stockholm to Naples, if you can but ſpeak French, you will every where be underſtood. By the acquirement of this tongue, only, a number of other languages may be neglected, which it would elſe be neceſſary to know; and our memory muſt then be burthened with words, inſtead of being abundant in things; which latter is much the moſt preferable.

Such, ſir, are the different ſhackles which have prevented us from proceeding with rapidity equal to our neighbours. But it has always

happened that thoſe who come laſt have in ſome manner ſurpaſſed their predeceſſors; and this may more quickly be the caſe with us than is imagined, ſhould ſovereigns acquire a taſte for literature, and ſhould they encourage thoſe who apply themſelves to it, by praiſing and rewarding the authors who have been moſt ſucceſſful. Give us but princes like the Medicis, and we ſhall ſee genius bloom. An Auguſtus will produce a Virgil. We ſhall have our claſſic authors; each man, to profit by them, will wiſh to read. Our neighbours will ſtudy the German, and it will be ſpoken with delight in the courts of princes. Our language, poliſhed and improved, may happen, in favour of our good writers, to extend over all Europe.

Theſe ſummer days of our literature are not yet come; but they approach; I foretel they will appear. I ſhall not ſee them; of the hope of this I am deprived by age. I reſemble Moſes; I have a ſight of the promiſed land, but into it muſt not enter. Forgive me the compariſon. I leave Moſes to be what he is, and do not deſire to be brought in parallel with him. And, with reſpect to our literary ſummer, for this we muſt wait: it will, at leaſt, be of more worth than the naked and arid rocks of the ſterile Idumea.

A

MORAL DIALOGUE,

FOR THE USE OF THE

YOUNG NOBILITY.

A

MORAL DIALOGUE.

Queſtion.

WHAT is virtue?

Anſwer.

A happy propenſity of mind, which inclines us to fulfil the duties of ſociety, to our own advantage.

Queſtion.

In what do the duties of ſociety conſiſt?

Anſwer.

In ſubmiſſion; in the gratitude we owe our fathers, for the attentions they have paid to our education; in aſſiſting them with all our power; in rendering their old age, by our tender affection, ſervices ſimilar to thoſe which they rendered us during our feeble infancy.

Toward our brothers, nature, and the ties of blood, remind us of the good faith and attachment we owe; as being derived from the ſame origin, and united to them by the moſt indiſſoluble connections of humanity.

In

In the character of father, we are obliged to nurture our children with all poſſible care; particularly to watch over their education, and their morals; becauſe virtue and wiſdom are a thouſand times more precious than all the accumulated treaſures which might be left them, as their heritage.

In the quality of citizen, it is our duty to reſpect ſociety, in general; to conſider all men as of the ſame ſpecies; to regard them as companions, as brothers, whom nature has beſtowed on us; and "to do unto them as we wiſh they ſhould "do unto us."

As members of one common country, we ought to exert our whole abilities, to be uſeful to that country; we ought to love it ſincerely, becauſe it is our general mother; and, ſhould its proſperity ſo require, to it we ought to ſacrifice poſſeſſions and life.

Queſtion.

Theſe are very excellent principles. We have now to examine how you will reconcile your duty toward ſociety to your own intereſt. Do not the reſpect and filial ſubmiſſion, in which you hold your father, lay a diſagreeable conſtraint upon you, when you are obliged to cede to his will?

Anſwer.

Anſwer.

There is no doubt but that, by obeying, I ſometimes am obliged to commit violence on myſelf. But which way can I be ſufficiently grateful toward the perſons who gave me life? Does not my intereſt require me to encourage, by my example, my children to imitate me, and to pay the ſame ſubmiſſion to my will?

Queſtion.

Nothing can be objected to your reaſon, conſequently nothing I ſhall object. But how will you preſerve unity with your brothers and ſiſters, if, as it often happens, family affairs, or diſcuſſions concerning legacies, ſhould occaſion diſputes?

Anſwer.

Do you then ſuppoſe the ties of blood to be ſo feeble as not to be ſuperior to temporary intereſt? If our father leave a will, to that laſt will it is our duty to ſubmit. If he die inteſtate, the laws will determine our difference. Nothing therefore can be of any important prejudice to me. And even ſhould I be poſſeſſed by the fury of envy, and the rage of chicanery, muſt I not be ſenſible that the family inheritance would be waſted in law? I would therefore come to an amical agreement, and not ſuffer diſcord to ruin our family.

Queſtion.

Queſtion.

I wiſh to believe you are ſufficiently prudent not, through your own error, to give place to any family contention: but wrong may be done by your brothers and ſiſters; they may act improperly toward you; may envy you, ſpeak of you in indecent language, cauſe you vexation, and may even endeavour to effect your ruin. How will you then reconcile the ſeverity of duty with your own intereſt and felicity?

Anſwer.

After having calmed the firſt emotions of indignation, which their conduct may have inſpired, it ſhould be my glory rather to ſuffer offence than to offend. I would afterward ſpeak to them; would tell them that, reſpectful of the blood which my father and mother had tranſmitted to them, I found it impoſſible for me to act againſt them as againſt declared enemies; but that I would take precautions to prevent them from doing me injuries. This generous proceeding might bring them back to reaſon; and, ſhould it not, I ſhould ſtill have the conſolation of having acted irreproachably. Proceeding thus, I could not but acquire the applauſe of the wiſe; and this would to me be ſufficient recompence.

Queſtion.

Queſtion.

What end would ſuch generoſity anſwer?

Anſwer.

It would preſerve, what I hold moſt precious on earth, my reputation, on which I found all my happineſs, unſpotted.

Queſtion.

What happineſs can ariſe from the opinion which men may entertain of you?

Anſwer.

Not upon the opinions of others do I found my happineſs, but on the ineffable ſatisfaction which I feel, at being conſcious that my actions are worthy of a reaſonable, humane, and beneficent being.

Queſtion.

You have ſaid that, ſhould you have children, you would be more careful to render them virtuous than wealthy. Why do you pay ſo little attention to their worldly wealth?

Anſwer.

Becauſe wealth, in itſelf, is of no value; and only becomes ſo by the manner in which it is employed. Now, if I cultivate the talents of my children, if I form their minds and their morals, their own perſonal merit will make their fortune. Whereas, ſhould I neglect to watch over their education, be the wealth I might leave them

what it would, they would diſſipate it very quickly. Beſide I wiſh to ſee my children's character, their hearts, their talents, and their knowledge eſteemed, and not their riches.

Queſtion.

This muſt neceſſarily be uſeful to ſociety; but, with reſpect to yourſelf, of what advantage will it be to you?

Anſwer.

Of very great. Becauſe my well-tutored children would become the conſolation of my old age; they would not diſhonour my name, nor my anceſtors, by their ill conduct; and, being prudent and rational, by the aid of their talents, the riches I might leave them would be ſufficient for their honourable ſubſiſtence.

Queſtion.

You do not then imagine that noble birth, and illuſtrious anceſtors, afford any diſpenſation for the want of perſonal merit?

Anſwer.

Far to the contrary: theſe but excite emulation. Nothing can be more ſhameful than to degrade a noble race, by ſuch conduct. The ſplendour of anceſtry, far from illuſtrating its ſucceſſors, would but diſplay their infamy.

Queſtion.

I muſt requeſt ſome explanations from you, with

with regard to what you have ſaid on our duties to ſociety. You have told me you muſt do to others as you wiſh others ſhould do to you. This is vague. I wiſh you to be more explicit, on what you underſtand by theſe words.

Anſwer.

In this there will be no difficulty. I need but ſtate what gives me pleaſure, and what pain.

1. I ſhould think myſelf injured, were any one to ſeize on my poſſeſſions; conſequently, no one ought to be diſpoſſeſſed by me.

2. My affliction would be exceſſive, were any one to debauch my wife. I therefore ought not to defile the bed of another.

3. I deteſt thoſe who break their word to me; or who perjure themſelves. It reſults that I ought faithfully to keep my promiſe, and obſerve my oath.

4. I abhor thoſe who defame me; and, for this reaſon, ought not to calumniate any perſon.

5. No individual has a right to take my life; nor can I then have a right to take the life of the meaneſt individual.

6. Thoſe who act ungratefully toward me excite my indignation. How therefore can I act ungratefully toward my benefactors?

7. If I love to live undiſturbed, I conſequently

ought not to diſturb the tranquillity of my neighbour.

8. If I wiſh to be aided in time of need, I will not refuſe aid to thoſe who aſk it of me; becauſe I am ſenſible of the pleaſure which a benevolent mind feels, in acts of benevolence. The affectionate heart compaſſionates the woes of humanity, and defends, aſſiſts, and protects the wretched.

Queſtion.

I perceive you do all theſe things for ſociety; but what do you thereby gain for yourſelf?

Anſwer.

The ſweet ſatisfaction of perceiving myſelf to be what I wiſh to be; worthy of friends, worthy the eſteem of my fellow-citizens, and worthy the applauſe of my own heart.

Queſtion.

By thus behaving, muſt not you ſacrifice all your paſſions to your reaſon?

Anſwer.

I ſhould not give them the rein; yet, while reſtraining them, I ſhould act for my own good; for the ſupport of the laws, which protect the feeble againſt the aſſaults of the ſtrong; for the maintenance of my reputation; and, further, to avoid thoſe puniſhments which the laws inflict on tranſgreſſors.

Queſtion.

Queſtion.

The laws, it is true, puniſh public crimes; but how many bad actions, concealed in darkneſs, are hidden from the ſharp ſword of juſtice! And why ſhould not you become one of the happy guilty, who enjoy the fruit of their offences, under the ſhade of impunity? Should therefore a clandeſtine opportunity of enriching yourſelf offer, would you ſuffer it to eſcape?

Anſwer.

If by honourable means I could acquire wealth, ſuch undoubtedly I ſhould not neglect; but, were the means diſhonourable, I ſhould renounce them without heſitation.

Queſtion.

Why?

Anſwer.

Becauſe there is nothing ſo ſecret which does not come to light. Time, ſoon or late, diſcovers the truth. Ill-acquired riches I ſhould tremble while I poſſeſſed, and ſhould paſs my life in the cruel expectation of the moment which would for ever diſhonour me to the world, by diſcloſing my turpitude.

Queſtion.

Yet the morality of the great is very relaxed; and, were we to ſcrutinize by what claims each

man is poſſeſſed of wealth, how many acts of injuſtice, of fraud, and ill faith, ſhould we not diſcover! Would not ſuch examples encourage you to imitation?

Anſwer.

They would make me groan for the perverſity of mankind. But, as neither deformity nor blindneſs inſpires me with a wiſh to be deformed, or blind; I imagine, in like manner, it is unworthy of the virtuous to degrade themſelves, and to take example by vice.

Queſtion.

There are however concealed crimes.

Anſwer.

I own it; but the criminals are not happy: they are tormented, as I have ſaid, by the fear of being diſcovered, and the moſt violent remorſe. They feel they act the hypocrite, and that they cover their diſhoneſty with the maſk of virtue. Their heart rejects the falſe eſteem which they enjoy; and they ſecretly condemn themſelves to ſuffer all the contempt they deſerve.

Queſtion.

Whether, were you in ſuch a ſituation, you would make ſuch reflections, remains to be enquired.

Anſwer.

Anſwer.

Could I ſtifle the voice of conſcience, and of avenging remorſe? Conſcience is as a mirror; when our paſſions are calm, it repreſents all our deformities. In this mirror I have ſeen myſelf innocent, I now ſee myſelf guilty! Alas! How horrible muſt I appear in my own eyes!—No, I never will wilfully thus expoſe myſelf to ſuch humiliation, ſuch grief, ſuch torment.

Queſtion.

There are however concuſſions, and rapine, which war ſeems to authoriſe.

Anſwer.

War is the trade of men of honour, when citizens expoſe their lives for the ſervice of their country. But, when intereſt interferes, this noble trade degenerates into mere robbery.

Queſtion.

If then you are not intereſted, at leaſt you are ambitious; you wiſh to riſe and to command men like yourſelf.

Anſwer.

I make great diſtinction between ambition and emulation: the firſt paſſion often becomes exceſſive, and approaches vice: but emulation is a deſirable virtue; it leads us without jealouſy to ſurpaſs our rivals, by a better performance of our duties; it is the ſoul of heroic actions, war-

like and civil; it deſires ſplendour, but will owe its elevation to virtue only, aided by ſuperior talents.

Queſtion.

But could you, by doing an ill office to ſome one, arrive at an eminent poſt, ſhould not you think ſuch an expedient the ſhorteſt road?

Anſwer.

I own ſuch a poſt might tempt my cupidity; but never would I become an aſſaſſin for ſuch a purpoſe.

Queſtion.

What do you underſtand by becoming an aſſaſſin?

Anſwer.

To murder a man is a leſs evil than to defame him; to ſtab with the tongue or with the dagger is the ſame thing.

Queſtion.

You therefore will not calumniate any one. Without however becoming an aſſaſſin, you may happen to kill ſome perſon. Not that I ſuſpect you of committing murder, in cold blood; but, ſhould any one of your equals openly declare himſelf your enemy, and perſecute you; ſhould brutality or ill-breeding inſult or diſhonour you; hurried away by anger, the ſweets of revenge would incite you to commit ſome violent action.

Anſwer.

Anſwer.

This ought not to be ſo; but I am a man, born with lively paſſions. I ſhould no doubt have to ſuffer a ſevere ſtruggle, in order to repreſs the firſt impulſe of anger; this however it is my duty to ſuppreſs. It is the office of the laws to revenge the offences done to private perſons; no individual has a right to puniſh thoſe by whom he has been injured. But ſhould ſome firſt emotion unfortunately overpower my reaſon, I ſhould regret the act of dereliction during life.

Queſtion.

How can you reconcile this conduct, being a ſoldier, with what the point of honour exacts from a man of birth? You know that, unfortunately, in all countries, the laws of honour are preciſely oppoſite to the laws of the land.

Anſwer.

I propoſe to be circumſpect in my conduct, that I may not give occaſion to unjuſtifiable quarrels; and, ſhould I be involved in ſuch, without blame to myſelf, I ſhould be obliged to follow the received cuſtom, and waſh my hands of affront, be the conſequences what they would.

Queſtion.

Since we are upon the point of honour, pray explain to me in what you think it conſiſts.

Anſwer.

Anſwer.

In avoiding whatever can render a man deſpicable, and in obliging him to employ every worthy means, by which he may increaſe his reputation.

Queſtion.

What is it which renders a man deſpicable?

Anſwer.

Debauchery, indolence, folly, ignorance, ill-conduct, cowardice, and vice of every kind.

Queſtion.

What is it which procures a good reputation?

Anſwer.

Integrity, worthy behaviour, knowledge, application, vigilance, valour, noble actions, civil and military, and, in a word, whatever raiſes man ſuperior to human weakneſs.

Queſtion.

Indulge me in a remark on human weakneſs: you are young, and at a time of life when the paſſions are the ſtrongeſt. Should you reſiſt avarice, inordinate ambition, and vengeance, ſtill I imagine I perceive you vanquiſhed by the darts of enchanting woman, who wounds while ſhe ſeduces, and drives the poiſoned barb ſo deeply into the heart, that reaſon is bewildered.

How

How already do I pity the huſband by whoſe wife you have been ſubdued! What think you?

Anſwer.

I am young and frail, I confeſs; yet I know my duty; and I think, without troubling the repoſe of families, and without employing violence, a young man may appeaſe his paſſions by leſs unworthy means.

Queſtion.

I underſtand you. You allude to the ſaying of Porcius Cato, who, ſeeing a young patrician leave the houſe of a courtezan, exclaimed that he was glad of it; becauſe, by acting thus, the youth would not diſturb the peace of families. Yet this is an expedient ſubject to ſtrange inconveniences: and to ſeduce young women—

Anſwer.

I will ſeduce no one, becauſe I will neither deceive others nor perjure myſelf. To deceive, is a diſhoneſt act; and to perjure, the act of a raſcal.

Queſtion.

What! When your intereſt is concerned?

Anſwer.

Intereſt would in ſuch a caſe be oppoſed by intereſt; for, were I to break my word, I ſhould not dare complain were others to break their word

word with me. And, were I to ſport with oaths, how might I depend on the oaths of others?

Queſtion.

Yet, by following the rule of Cato, you would expoſe yourſelf to different dangers.

Anſwer.

He who abandons himſelf to his paſſions is a loſt man. The general rule which I have preſcribed for my conduct through life is—"Uſe, "but do not abuſe."

Queſtion.

You ſpeak ſagely. But are you certain you ſhall never depart from this rule?

Anſwer.

Self preſervation will induce me to be careful of my health; and nothing is more ruinous to health than exceſs in love. I ought therefore to be careful, that I may not exhauſt my ſtrength, and may not ſubject myſelf to horrid diſeaſes, which would render the flouriſhing ſpring of youth languid, ſickly, and wretched. How muſt I reproach myſelf, were I guilty of my own death! Thus, though the intereſt of pleaſure may drag me along, I ſhall be held and ſtopped by the intereſt of ſelf preſervation.

Queſtion.

Nothing can be objected to ſuch reaſons. But,

But, rigid as you are toward yourſelf, you will no doubt be very ſevere to others.

Anſwer.

I am not ſevere to myſelf; I am only prudent. I deny myſelf only that which is injurious to my character, my health, and my honour. Far from being unfeeling, I compaſſionate all the woes of my fellow-creatures: nor does this ſatisfy me; I endeavour to aſſiſt and render them every ſervice in my power; whether by ſuccouring indigence with the wealth I poſſeſs, adviſing them in trouble, proving their innocence when aſperſed, or in giving them recommendations when I find proper opportunities.

Queſtion.

Should you be too liberal in alms, you would expend all your property.

Anſwer.

I give according to my abilities; it is money which produces a hundred fold, in the ſweet pleaſure that is experienced while relieving the unfortunate.

Queſtion.

But there is greater danger ſtill, in declaring yourſelf the defender of the oppreſſed.

Anſwer.

And muſt I behold innocence perſecuted, yet lend

lend it no aid? Knowing the truth, and capable of being a witneſs againſt falſe accuſation, I ſhould betray this truth, were I not to bring it to light; and ſhould fail in all the duties of a worthy man, either from inſenſibility or weakneſs.

Queſtion.

Yet, conſidering the nature of mankind, all truths are not proper to be ſpoken.

Anſwer.

In general, it is the unqualified manner of ſpeaking truth which renders it diſagreeable; when it is announced with modeſty, and without faſtidiouſneſs, it ſeldom meets an ill reception. In fine, I know how neceſſary it is to be aſſiſted and defended. From whom can I demand ſuch ſervices, if I perform none ſuch myſelf?

Queſtion.

By ſerving men we frequently oblige only the ungrateful. What profit would you gain by your trouble?

Anſwer.

To be the cauſe of ingratitude in others is glorious; but it is infamous to be ungrateful yourſelf.

Queſtion.

Gratitude is a heavy and often an inſupport-

able load; a benefit received is never repaid. Do not you think it painful to bear the burthen all your life?

Anſwer.

No; becauſe the recollection would inceſſantly remind me of the noble behaviour of my friends, which I wiſh never to forget. I have a ſhort memory only on ſubjects of offence. Without gratitude there can be no virtue; it is the ſoul of friendſhip, the beſt conſolation of life; it binds us to our kindred, our country, and our benefactors. Never will I forget that ſociety which has ſeen my birth; that breaſt which afforded me nutriment; that father who brought me up; that ſage who gave me inſtruction; that tongue which has defended me; or that arm by which I have been ſuccoured.

Queſtion.

I confeſs the ſervices which have been rendered you have been of uſe. But what intereſt have you in this return of gratitude?

Anſwer.

The greateſt of all intereſt, that of preſerving friends for the time of need; in deſerving, by my gratitude, that benevolent minds ſhould aid me; for there is no man who is never in want of aid. I therefore muſt render myſelf worthy

of

of aſſiſtance. The world abhors the ungrateful, who are regarded as the perturbators of the moſt pleaſing ties of ſociety, and who render friendſhip dangerous, and good offices injurious to thoſe by whom they are performed. In fine, the ungrateful return ill for good; and, to do this, the heart muſt be unfeeling, perverſe, and atrocious. Can mine be ſo? Shall I render myſelf unworthy of the ſociety of the good? Shall I act in oppoſition to the ſecret inſtinct of my heart, which, loudly admoniſhing me, ſays—"Be not inferior to thy benefactors: return if "poſſible the ſervices a hundred fold, which "thou haſt received from their generoſity?" Rather let death terminate my exiſtence than let me diſgrace myſelf by ſuch infamy! That I may be cheerful and contented, it is requiſite I ſhould be ſatisfied with myſelf; that, when recapitulating my actions on an evening, I ſhould find ſufficient to flatter and not to repreſs my ſelf-love. The more traits of juſtice, generoſity, dignity, gratitude, and grandeur of mind I can diſcover in myſelf, the greater will be my ſatisfaction.

Queſtion.

But you extend your gratitude to your country. What are your obligations?

Anſwer.

Anſwer.

Infinite: my talents, ſuch as they are; my cares, my love, my life, are my country's.

Queſtion.

True it is that patriotiſm, in Greece and Rome, was productive of the moſt heroic actions. From this principle, while the laws of Lycurgus continued to be obſerved, the Spartans maintained their power. In conſequence of this inviolable attachment, the Roman republic produced citizens who rendered her the miſtreſs of the world. But how do you combine your intereſt with that of your country?

Anſwer.

Without difficulty; becauſe every worthy action is followed by its own reward. What I ſacrifice of my intereſt I gain in reputation; and my country, a kind mother, is indeed obliged to recompenſe the ſervices ſhe receives.

Queſtion.

In what do ſuch ſervices conſiſt?

Anſwer.

They are innumerable. We may be uſeful to our country, by educating our children in worthy and good principles; by improving the ſtate of agriculture on our own eſtates; by adminiſtering

niſtering juſtice equitably; by diſtributing the public revenues diſintereſtedly; by endeavouring to render the age in which we live illuſtrious; by our virtues, or our knowledge; by embracing the profeſſion of arms, from a pure ſentiment of honour; by renouncing effeminacy for vigilance and activity, intereſt for renown, and life for glory; by acquiring all the knowledge which is neceſſary to ſucceed in ſo difficult an art; and, in fine, by defending the intereſts of our country, at our own perſonal peril. Such are my duties.

Queſtion.

This is to burthen yourſelf with many cares and troubles.

Anſwer.

A country rejects uſeleſs citizens, who remain its encumbrances. By tacit convention every member is bound to contribute to the good of the great family of the ſtate; and, as the barren branches of trees are lopped away, in like manner ſociety rejects the debauched, the ſaunterring, and that whole race of indolent men who, for the moſt part, are perverſe; who are concentrated in themſelves; and are ſatisfied with enjoying the advantages of ſociety, without in any manner contributing to its utility. Had I

the

the power, it is my wiſh to exceed my duties. I am excited by noble emulation to imitate great examples. Why do you think ſo ill of me, as to believe me incapable of thoſe efforts of virtue, the models of which other men have furniſhed? Am I not endowed with the ſame organs as they were? Have I not a heart capable of the ſame ſenſations? Shall I put the age in which I live to the bluſh; and, by my cowardly conduct, give occaſion to ſuſpect that we are a degenerate race, incapable of the virtues of our anceſtors? Beſide, am I not mortal? Do I know when my career may end? And, ſince die I muſt, were it not better that my laſt moments ſhould be glorious, and perpetuate my name to the end of ages, than that I ſhould expire, after having lived a life of inſignificance and obſcurity, a prey to diſeaſe more cruel than the enemy's ſword? Or than that myſelf, my name, and my acts, ſhould lie buried together in the grave? It is my deſire to deſerve to be known, to be virtuous, to ſerve my country, and to poſſeſs my ſmall niche in the temple of Fame.

Queſtion.

Thinking thus, poſſeſs it you undoubtedly will. Plato has ſaid that the laſt paſſion of the ſage is the love of fame. I am delighted to per-

ceive theſe excellent propenſities in you. You have diſcovered that true happineſs conſiſts in virtue: perſevere in ſentiments ſo noble; and you will neither want friends during your life, nor fame after your death.

EULOGIUM ON VOLTAIRE:

READ BEFORE THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND BELLES LETTRES, AT BERLIN, IN AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING, CONVOKED FOR THAT PURPOSE, NOVEMBER THE 26th, 1778.

EULOGIUM

ON

VOLTAIRE.

GENTLEMEN,

IN all ages, eſpecially among the moſt wiſe and poliſhed nations, men of high and uncommon genius have been honoured, during their lives, and ſtill more honoured, after their death. They have been conſidered as phenomena, who, by their own perſonal ſplendor, reflect honour on their country. The firſt lawgivers, who taught men to live in ſociety; the firſt heros, who defended their fellow citizens; the philoſophers, who ſearched into the profundities of nature, and there diſcovered ſome truths; the poets, who tranſmitted the great actions of their cotemporaries to future generations—theſe were all of them regarded as beings ſuperior to the human race: they were ſuppoſed to be favoured by the particular inſpiration of the Deity.

Hence happened it that altars were raiſed to Socrates; that Hercules was held to be a god; that Greece honoured Orpheus; and that ſeven cities diſputed the glory of having given birth to Homer. The people of Athens, whoſe education was of the moſt perfect kind, knew the Iliad by rote; and, with the fineſt feelings of the heart, celebrated the glory of their ancient heroes, by ſinging this poem.

Sophocles, who, in like manner, was ſeen to carry the palm at the theatre, was in great eſteem for his genius; and, ſtill more, was entruſted with the execution of the moſt conſiderable offices by the republic of Athens. How much Eſchinus, Pericles, and Demoſthenes were eſteemed, all know. All know that Pericles twice ſaved the life of Diagoras; the firſt time by protecting him from the fury of the Sophiſts, and the ſecond by yielding him benevolent aſſiſtance.

Whoever, in Greece, was poſſeſſed of talents, was certain to find admirers, and even enthuſiaſts. Encouragement ſo powerful cauſed the developement of genius: it was this which gave the mind that elaſtic force, which made it riſe, and ſurpaſs the bounds of mediocrity. How great was the emulation philoſophers felt, when they heard that Philip of Macedon ſe-

lected

lected Ariſtotle, as the only preceptor worthy to educate Alexander! In this fine age, merit always met its reward; talents were always honoured; good authors were diſtinguiſhed; the works of Thucydides and of Xenophon were in the hands of all men; and, in fine, each citizen ſeemed to participate the fame of thoſe men of genius who then rendered the Grecian name ſuperior to that of all other nations.

Rome ſoon afterward furniſhed the world with a ſimilar ſpectacle. Cicero aroſe, whoſe philoſophic mind and eloquence elevated him to the height of glory. Lucretius did not live long enough to enjoy his fame. Virgil and Horace were honoured by the ſuffrages of theſe republicans, theſe monarchs; they were admitted to the familiarity of Auguſtus; and partook the rewards which that artful tyrant diſtributed among thoſe who celebrated his virtues, and caſt a veil over his vices.

At the revival of letters, in our weſtern hemiſphere, we recollect with pleaſure the eagerneſs with which the Medicis, and ſome ſovereign pontiffs, welcomed men of literature. Petrarch was crowned a poet; and death deprived Taſſo of the honour of being crowned in that ſame capitol where, formerly, the vanquiſhers of the world had triumphed.

Louis XIV. ardent to obtain every kind of renown, neglected not that of rewarding thoſe extraordinary men whom nature produced under his reign. He was not ſatisfied with ſhowering his benefactions on Boſſuet, Fenelon, Racine, and Boileau; he extended his munificence to all men of letters, be their country what it would, did but their fame happen to reach his ear.

Such is the eſteem in which all ages have held thoſe men of fortunate genius, who ſeem to ennoble the human ſpecies, and whoſe works are our recreation, and our delight, amid the miſeries of life. It is therefore but juſt that we ſhould pay to the manes of that great man, whoſe loſs Europe deplores, the tribute of praiſe and admiration which he ſo well has merited.

We do not propoſe, gentlemen, to enquire circumſtantially into the private life of M. de Voltaire. The hiſtory of a king ought to conſiſt in the enumeration of the benefits which he has ſcattered among his people; that of a warrior, in his campaigns; and that of a man of letters, in an analyſis of his works. Anecdotes may amuſe curioſity; actions inſtruct mankind. But, as it is impoſſible individually to enumerate that multitude of works for which we are indebted to the fecundity of M. de Voltaire, you will kindly

kindly be ſatisfied, gentlemen, with the ſketch I ſhall trace; while I ſhall confine myſelf merely to touch upon the principal events of his life.

To dwell upon reſearches merely relative to his family, would be to diſhonour M. de Voltaire. In oppoſition to thoſe who owe every thing to their anceſtors, nothing to themſelves, he was the debtor only of nature; he was himſelf the ſole inſtrument of his fortune and his fame. We muſt be ſatisfied with remembering that his relations, who were of the magiſtracy, gave him a proper education. He ſtudied at the college of Louis the Great, under the fathers Porée and Tournemine, who were the firſt to diſcover the rays of that reſplendent flame which ſhines through his works.

Though young, M. de Voltaire was not regarded as a common child: his talents early began to appear, and introduced him to the houſe of madame de Rupelmonde. That lady, charmed with the vivacity, wit, and talents of the youthful poet, was his paſſport into the beſt companies of Paris. The faſhionable world became to him the ſchool in which his taſte acquired that delicate diſcrimination, that politeneſs, and that urbanity, which never are attained by ſolitary erudition, that forms an ill

judgment of what may pleaſe refined ſociety, and has too diſtant a view to become acquainted with its manners. To this ſtyle of faſhion, this varniſh which is ſpread over his works, is M. de Voltaire principally indebted for that vogue in which they at preſent are.

His tragedy of Œdipus, and ſome agreeable verſes to private perſons, had appeared in the world, when an indecent ſatirical poem againſt the Duke of Orleans, then regent of France, was diſperſed through Paris. One La Grange, the author of that work of darkneſs, that he might avoid ſuſpicion himſelf, found means to paſs it under the name of M. de Voltaire. Government acted with precipitation; the youthful poet, innocent though he was, being arreſted, was conducted to the Baſtille, where he ſome months remained. But as it is the property of truth ſoon or late to appear, the true culprit was puniſhed, and M. de Voltaire juſtified and releaſed. Could you, gentlemen, have imagined that it was at the Baſtille, in priſon, that our young bard compoſed the two firſt books of his Henriade? Though ſtrange, this is true. His priſon became his Parnaſſus, to which the muſes reſorted! It is equally true that the ſecond book is, now, what it appeared in this firſt copy. Not having paper, or ink, he learnt the verſes

verſes by rote, and retained them in his memory.

Soon after he had gained his freedom, indignant at the unworthy and opprobrious treatment which he had endured, to the diſgrace of his country, he retired to England. Here he not only met a moſt favourable reception from the public, but alſo ſoon acquired a number of enthuſiaſtic admirers. At London he finiſhed his Henriade; which he then publiſhed under the title of *Poëme de la Ligue* *.

Our young poet, who knew how to turn all things to profit, applied himſelf principally, while in England, to the ſtudy of philoſophy; for there, at that time, the moſt ſage and profound philoſophers flouriſhed. He ſeized the clue with which the circumſpect Locke had guided himſelf through the labyrinth of metaphyſics; and, curbing his impetuous imagination, he ſoberly ſat down to the laborious calculations of the immortal Newton. So well did he appropriate to himſelf the diſcoveries of that philoſopher, and his progreſs was ſuch, that, in an abridgment, he gave ſo clear an expoſition of the Newtonian ſyſtem, that he enabled the unlearned reader to underſtand what he read. Before he appeared, M. de Fontenelle was the

* The Poem of the League.

only

only philoſopher who, ſcattering flowers over the thorny path of aſtronomy, had rendered it ſuſceptible of amuſing the fair ſex. The Engliſh were flattered to find a Frenchman, who, not ſatisfied with admiring their philoſophers, tranſlated them into his own language. The moſt illuſtrious characters in London were eager to obtain his acquaintance. Never was ſtranger more favourably received by that nation. But, however flattering this triumph might be to ſelf-love, the love of his country was victorious in the heart of the poet, and he returned to France.

The Pariſians, inſtructed by the applauſe beſtowed on our young poet, by a nation that was as learned as it was profound, began to ſuſpect that a man of genius had ariſen among them. His Letters on the Engliſh then appeared, in which the author, with bold and rapid ſtrokes, painted the manners, arts, religion, and government of that people. His tragedy of Brutus, written to give pleaſure to a free nation, ſoon ſucceeded; as likewiſe did his Marianne, and many other pieces.

There was at that time, in France, a lady celebrated by her taſte for the arts and the ſciences. You will eaſily imagine, gentlemen, the lady I allude to was the illuſtrious marchioneſs

chioneſs du Chatelet. She had read the philoſophic works of our young author; ſhe ſoon became acquainted with him; her deſire of information, and her ardour deeply to examine the few truths which the human mind is capable of examining, increaſed their friendſhip, and rendered it indiſſoluble. Madame du Chatelet immediately abandoned the Theodicea of Leibnitz, and the ingenious romances of that philoſopher, that, in their ſtead, ſhe might adopt the method of the circumſpect and prudent Locke; which was leſs calculated to gratify the ardour of curioſity, than to convince the underſtanding. She ſtudied geometry ſufficiently to follow Newton in his abſtract calculations. She was even ſo perſevering, in her application, that ſhe compoſed an abridgment of this ſyſtem, for the uſe of her ſon. Cirey ſoon became the philoſophic retreat of theſe two friends: there they both compoſed works of different kinds, which they communicated to each other; endeavouring, by mutual remark, to impart to their productions that degree of perfection to which it was probable they could attain. Here Zaïre, Alzire, Merope, Semiramis, Catiline, Electra, or Oreſtes, were compoſed.

M. de Voltaire, whoſe activity rendered him univerſal, did not entirely confine himſelf to the

the pleaſure of enriching the theatre by his tragedies. It was for the uſe of the marchioneſs du Chatelet that he wrote his Eſſay on Univerſal Hiſtory. The Hiſtory of Louis XIV. and the Hiſtory of Charles XII. had previouſly appeared.

An author of genius ſo rare, equally various and correct, could not eſcape the notice of the French academy: this ſeminary claimed him as a ſon; he became a member of that illuſtrious body, of which he was one of the brighteſt ornaments. Louis XV. that he might diſtinguiſh him, honoured him with the place of his Gentleman in Ordinary, and with that of Hiſtoriographer of France, which it may be ſaid he had already filled, by writing the Hiſtory of Louis XIV.

Senſible as M. de Voltaire was to ſuch ſplendid marks of approbation, he ſtill was more ſo to friendſhip. Inſeparably attached to madame du Chatelet, the magnificence of a brilliant court dazzled not his eyes, ſo as to induce him to prefer the grandeur of Verſailles to the abode of Luneville *; much leſs to the pleaſing retreat of Cirey. Theſe two friends there peaceably enjoyed that portion of happineſs of which

* Where Staniſlaus, the dethroned king of Poland, held his court. T.

humanity

humanity is ſuſceptible, when the death of the marchioneſs du Chatelet interrupted a union ſo enviable: this was a blow too ſevere for the ſenſibility of M. de Voltaire; and, to ſupport it, he was obliged to exert all his philoſophy.

At the very time when he was employing his whole force to vanquiſh his affliction, he was invited to the court of Pruſſia: the king, who had ſeen him in the year 1740, was deſirous of acquiring a man of genius of ſuch uncommon eminence. M. de Voltaire came to Berlin in the year 1752. There were no ſubjects with which he was not acquainted; his converſation was as inſtructive as it was pleaſing; his imagination as brilliant as it was various; and his wit as quick as his underſtanding was collected: he embelliſhed the barrenneſs of his ſubject by the graces of fiction. In a word, he was the delight of all ſociety.

An unfortunate diſpute aroſe between him and M. de Maupertuis, which occaſioned theſe two learned men, formed as they were to love and not to hate each other, to entertain ſentiments of enmity; and the war which followed, in 1756, inſpired M. de Voltaire with the wiſh to fix his reſidence in Swiſſerland. He firſt went to Geneva and Lauſanne; he afterward purchaſed

the Délices*; and finally ſettled at Ferney. He divided his time between ſtudy and labour; he read and wrote; and thus by the fruitfulneſs of his genius afforded employment to all the bookſellers of theſe Cantons.

The reſidence of M. de Voltaire, the effervescence of his genius, and the facility of his productions, perſuaded his whole neighbourhood that nothing more than will was wanting to become a man of wit. The ſuppoſition ſeemed like a kind of epidemic diſeaſe, with which the Swiſs, who are not ſuppoſed to be the moſt apt of mankind, were attacked: they could no longer expreſs themſelves on the commoneſt ſubjects but by antitheſes, or an epigrammatic point. The city of Geneva moſt powerfully felt the contagion: the citizens, who imagined themſelves nothing leſs than ſo many Lycurguſes, were all diſpoſed to frame new laws for their country; while none were willing to obey thoſe that were in exiſtence. Theſe emotions, occaſioned by an ill-conceived zeal for freedom, gave riſe to a kind of inſurrection, and a war that was rather ridiculous than ſerious. M. de Voltaire did not fail to immortalize the event, by writing a poem on the ſaid war, after the manner of Homer's War of the Frogs and Mice.

* An eſtate to which M. de Voltaire gave this name. T.

His

His pen was ſometimes employed on theatrical ſubjects, ſometimes in hiſtorical and philoſophical miſcellanies, and at others in allegoric and moral romances; yet, at the time that he thus enriched literature with his new productions, he likewiſe applied himſelf to rural œconomy. This proves how ſuſceptible a good underſtanding is of aſſuming every form. Ferney was an eſtate conſiſting chiefly of waſte land, when purchaſed by our philoſopher: by him it was cultivated; and not only repeopled, but he there aſſembled numerous artiſts and manufacturers.

Do not let us, gentlemen, too ſuddenly recollect the occaſion of our grief: leave we for a time M. de Voltaire in tranquillity at Ferney; and let us in the interim caſt a more attentive retroſpect over his numerous and various productions. Hiſtory informs us that Virgil, when dying, ill ſatisfied with the Æneid, which he had not brought to the perfection he himſelf wiſhed, was deſirous it ſhould be burnt. The long life of M. de Voltaire enabled him to poliſh and correct his Poem of the League, and to render it what it at preſent is, under the name of the Henriade. Envy has reproached our author, by aſſerting it was only an imitation of the Æneid; and it muſt be confeſſed the ſubjects of ſome of the books have a ſimilarity: but they

are not ſervile copies. If Virgil depicted the deſtruction of Troy, Voltaire diſplayed the horrors of St. Bartholomew. The amour between Henry IV. and the beautiful Gabrielle has been compared to the loves of Dido and Æneas; and the dream of Henry IV., with the prophecy of the future deſtiny of the Bourbons by St. Louis, to the deſcent of Æneas into hell, where Anchiſes diſcovers to his ſon his future poſterity. Might I dare venture my opinion, I ſhould judge the ſuperiority of two of the books to the French; that is to ſay, the maſſacre of St. Bartholomew, and the dream of Henry IV. Virgil is ſuperior to Voltaire only in the loves of Dido, for there the Latin author ſpeaks to and intereſts the heart, and the French ſpeaks only in allegory: but, were we candidly to examine the two poems without prejudice, either for the ancients or the moderns, we ſhould confeſs that many of the parts of the Æneid would not be ſuffered in works written by our cotemporaries; as, for example, the funeral honours which Æneas renders his father Anchiſes; the fable of the harpies, their prophecy to the Trojans, in which they tell them they ſhall be obliged to eat their plates, and the manner in which that prophecy is accompliſhed; the ſow with her nine pigs, which denote the place where Æneas is to find an end to

all

all his labours; his ſhips changed into nymphs; a ſtag killed by Aſcanius, which occaſions the war between the Trojans and Rutuli; and the hatred which the gods infuſe into the hearts of Amata and Lavinia againſt Æneas, whom Lavinia finally marries. Probably theſe were the defects with which Virgil himſelf was diſſatisfied, when he determined to burn his book; and which, according to the opinion of judicious critics, ought to place the Æneid below the Henriade.

If difficulties to vanquiſh conſtitute the merits of an author, M. de Voltaire had certainly more to ſurmount than Virgil. The ſubject of the Henriade is the reduction of Paris, accompliſhed by the converſion of Henry IV.: the poet conſequently had not the liberty to put the whole machinery of the marvellous in motion; he was confined to Chriſtian myſteries, which are much leſs fruitful in agreeable and pictureſque images than was the Pagan mythology. We certainly cannot read the tenth book of the Henriade without confeſſing that the charms of poetry have the gift of ennobling all ſubjects. M. de Voltaire was the only perſon diſſatisfied with his poem. He thought his hero was not expoſed to perils ſufficiently great, and that conſequently he muſt intereſt leſs than Æneas, who

never eſcapes one danger without being aſſaulted by another.

Examining the tragedies of M. de Voltaire with the ſame ſpirit of impartiality, we muſt own that, in ſome reſpects, he is ſuperior to Racine; and, in others, inferior to that famous poet. Œdipus was the firſt play M. de Voltaire wrote; his mind was impreſſed with the beauties of Sophocles and Euripides, and his memory inceſſantly recollected the continued and flowing elegance of Racine. Thus doubly potent, his firſt production was introduced to the theatre as a maſter-piece. Some critics, perhaps, not ſufficiently candid, were offended that old Jocaſta ſhould, at the ſight of Philoctetes, feel a paſſion, that was almoſt extinct in her boſom, again take birth. But, had the part of Philoctetes been retrenched, thoſe beauties which are produced by the contraſts between his character and that of Œdipus, would have been loſt.

His Brutus has been ſuppoſed to be more proper for repreſentation on the theatre of London than on that of Paris; becauſe a father who in cold blood condemns his ſon to death is regarded as a barbarian; whereas, in England, a conſul ſacrificing the very blood of his body to the liberties of his country, is reſpected as a god.

His Marian, and numerous other pieces, ſignalize

nalize both the art of poetry, and the fecundity of the author's genius. We muſt not however diſguiſe truth; we muſt obſerve that criticiſm, perhaps too ſevere, has reproached our poet, by affirming the contexture of his tragedies was far from being ſo natural and probable as that of the tragedies of Racine. While Iphigenia, Phedra, and Athalia are repreſented, ſay theſe critics, you imagine yourſelf preſent at an action which naturally and clearly developes itſelf; whereas, when Zaïre is acted, you muſt delude your mind relative to probability, and pay but ſmall attention to certain defects by which it is ſhocked: they add that the ſecond act is a digreſſion, during which the auditor is condemned to endure the dotage of the aged Luſignan, who, finding himſelf again in his palace, knows not where he is; who ſpeaks of his ancient feats of arms, in the language of a lieutenant-colonel of the regiment of Navarre, become the governor of Peronne. The means by which he recollects his children are not very evident. To induce his daughter to be a chriſtian, he informs her ſhe is on the hill where Abraham ſacrificed, or would have ſacrificed, his ſon Iſaac; he makes her promiſe to be baptized, after Châtillon had atteſted that he himſelf had baptized her; and that this is the plot of the piece: after Luſignan has en-

groſſed this cold and languid act, he dies of an apoplexy, without any perſon being intereſted by his death. It ſhould ſeem, ſince a prieſt and a ſacrament were neceſſary to the plot, that the euchariſt might have been ſubſtituted to baptiſm.—But however well founded theſe remarks might be, they are entirely forgotten in the fifth act; pathos, pity, and terror, which this great poet has the art to excite in ſo ſuperior a manner, hurry away the ſpectator, who, agitated by paſſions ſo powerful, forgets trifling defects, in favour of beauties ſo great.

It will therefore be confeſſed that Racine poſſeſſes the advantage of being more natural, more probable, in the texture of his dramas; and that throughout them reign a continued elegance, a ſweetneſs, a flow of verſification, which no other poet ſince him has approached; but, in oppoſition to theſe, ſome verſes excepted, which have too much of the epic in the plays of M. de Voltaire, it muſt be allowed, if we will only forget the fifth act of Catiline, he poſſeſſed the art of increaſing the intereſt of the plot ſcene by ſcene, and act after act, ſo as to carry it to the extreme at the cataſtrophe. This is certainly the perfection of poetry.

His univerſal genius was capable of all. After having wreſtled with Virgil, and perhaps thrown

thrown him, he wiſhed to contend with Arioſto: he wrote his Maid of Orleans in the manner of the Orlando Furioſo. The former poem is not an imitation of the latter; the fable, the marvellous, and the epiſodes, are all original; all breathe gaiety, and a vivid imagination.

His ſhort poems, written on ſocial occaſions, are the delight of all perſons of taſte; the author of them was the only perſon who held them in no eſteem; though Anacreon, Horace, Ovid, Tibullus, and all the great authors of antiquity, have left us no models in their various kinds which he has not equalled. Theſe works he wrote without effort, but theſe were not to him ſatisfactory. His opinion was, that, to poſſeſs well-merited fame, it muſt be acquired by conquering the greateſt impediments.

After having given an abſtract of the talents of the poet, let us paſs on to thoſe of the hiſtorian. His Hiſtory of Charles XII. was the firſt he compoſed; he was the Quintus Curtius of that Alexander. The flowers with which he ſtrews his ſubject do not alter the reality of the facts: he depicts the ardent valour of the northern hero, in the moſt glowing colours—his fortitude on certain occaſions, his obſtinacy on others, his proſperity, and his misfortunes.

After having made trial of his ſtrength on Charles

Charles XII. he ventured to attempt the hiſtory of the age of Louis XIV. He did not in this employ the romantic ſtyle of Quintus Curtius, but ſubſtituted that of Cicero; who, pleading for the Manilia law, made an eulogium on Pompey. A Frenchman himſelf, he enthuſiaſtically enumerates the famous events of this fine age of France; expoſes, in all their ſplendour, the advantages which at that time gave his nation a preponderancy over ſo many other nations. He cites the numerous men of genius who ſeem to have been moulded by the hand of Louis XIV.; and depicts the reign of the arts and ſciences, protected by a poliſhed court; the progreſs of induſtry, of every kind; and that intrinſic ſtrength of France, which in ſome meaſure rendered her king the arbiter of Europe. This work, unique in its kind, deſervedly acquired M. de Voltaire the attachment and gratitude of the whole French nation, whoſe worth had been more nobly depicted by him than by any other of their writers.

The ſtyle employed by him in his Eſſay on Univerſal Hiſtory, is again varied: it is ſtrong and ſimple. The character of his mind is more manifeſted, by the manner in which he has treated that hiſtory, than in his other writings. We there ſee the impetuoſity of ſuperior genius

taking an enlarged view of every ſubject, attaching itſelf to what is important, and neglecting whatever is trifling. The work is not written to teach hiſtory to thoſe by whom it has not been ſtudied, but to recal to mind the principal facts after having been previouſly read. He keeps the firſt law of hiſtory, that of ſpeaking truth, continually in view; and the reflections which he ſcatters are not digreſſions, but riſe out of the ſubject.

We have ſtill numerous other treatiſes by M. de Voltaire, to analyſe which is almoſt impoſſible: ſome turn on ſubjects of criticiſm; others on metaphyſics, which he enlightens; and others again on aſtronomy, hiſtory, philoſophy, eloquence, poetry, and mathematics. His very romances bear the ſtamp of originality. Zadig, Micromégas, and Candide, are works which ſeem to breathe the ſpirit of frivolity; yet contain moral or critical allegories on ſome modern ſyſtems, in which the agreeable and the uſeful are inſeparably combined.

Talents ſo various, and ſcience ſo diverſe, united in one ſingle perſon, threw his readers into ſurprize mingled with aſtoniſhment. Recal to mind, gentlemen, the lives of the great men of antiquity, whoſe names have deſcended to us, and we ſhall find that each of them limited

mited himſelf to one ſpecies of knowledge. Ariſtotle and Plato were philoſophers; Eſchinus and Demoſthenes, orators; Homer, an epic poet; Sophocles wrote tragedies; Anacreon, odes; Thucydides and Xenophon, hiſtory. Thus, among the Romans, Virgil, Horace, Ovid, and Lucretius, were poets; Varro and Livy, hiſtorians; Craſſus the elder, Antony, and Hortenſius, ſatisfied themſelves with oratory; Cicero, the conſul orator, the defender and father of his country, was the only one who united in himſelf various ſpecies of ſcience and talents. To the grand art of eloquence, in which he excelled all his cotemporaries, he added the profound ſtudy of philoſophy, ſuch as it then was: this appears from his Tuſculan Epiſtles, his admirable treatiſe on the Nature of the Gods, and his Offices, which is perhaps the beſt moral work we yet poſſeſs. Cicero was even a poet: he tranſlated the verſes of Aratus into Latin; and it is ſuppoſed his corrections improved the poem of Lucretius.

We have therefore been obliged to extend our enquiries through a ſpace of ſeventeen centuries, to find, among the multitude of men who have compoſed the human race, Cicero alone, whoſe knowledge might be compared with that of our illuſtrious author. It may be

affirmed, if I may be permitted thus to expreſs myſelf, that M. de Voltaire was himſelf equal to a whole academy. There are eſſays written by him, in which we imagine we meet with Bayle, armed with all his logical arguments; in others we think we are reading Thucydides. Here he is a philoſopher, diſcovering the ſecrets of nature; and there a metaphyſician, who, reſting on analogy and experiment, follows with meaſured ſteps the traces of Locke. In other of his works we diſcover the rival of Sophocles: here he ſcatters flowers as he proceeds; there he playfully puts on the ſock; though it ſeems that his elevated imagination did not take pleaſure in confining its flight to the ſportive track of Terence or Moliere. Soon you ſee him mounting his Pegaſus, who, extending his wings, tranſports him to the heights of Helicon, where the god of the muſes aſſigns him a place between Homer and Virgil.

Productions ſo various, and efforts of genius ſo great, produced at length ſtrong ſenſations on the minds of mankind; and all Europe applauded the ſuperior talents of M. de Voltaire. Yet muſt it not be ſuppoſed he was ſpared by jealouſy and envy; they ſharpened all their darts to wound. That innate ſpirit of independence

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in mankind, which inſpires them with averſion for authority the moſt legitimate, made them revolt with ſtill greater bitterneſs againſt a ſuperiority of talents, which, wanting ſtrength, they could not attain. But the clamours of envy were drowned in the acclamations of applauſe. Men of letters thought themſelves honoured by the acquaintance of this great man. Whoever was philoſopher enough to eſteem nothing ſo much as perſonal merit, placed M. de Voltaire far above thoſe whoſe anceſtors, titles, pride, and wealth conſtitute their whole worth. M. de Voltaire was one of the ſmall number of philoſophers who may ſay, *Omnia mecum porto.* Princes, ſovereigns, kings, and empreſſes, heaped on him marks of their eſteem and admiration. Not that we pretend to inſinuate that the grandees of the earth are thoſe who beſt can eſtimate merit; but the fact at leaſt proves the fame of our author to be ſo generally eſtabliſhed, that the chiefs of nations, far from contradicting the public voice, imagined it their duty to join in approbation.

But as in this world good is every where intermingled with evil, it happened that M. de Voltaire, alive to the univerſal applauſe which he enjoyed, was not leſs ſo to the ſtings of thoſe

inſects

inſects that wallow in the mud of the waters of Hippocrene *. Far from puniſhing, he immortalized them, by admitting their obſcure names a place in his works.

But the beſpattering he received from them was trifling, compared to the more violent perſecutions he endured from eccleſiaſtics; who, being profeſſionally the miniſters of peace, ought to practiſe nothing but charity and benevolence. Blinded by falſe zeal, and brutalized by fanaticiſm, they ſeize their prey, and by calumniating wiſh to deſtroy. Their ignorance rendered their plan abortive; wanting knowledge, they confounded ideas the moſt evident; ſo that paſſages in which our author inſinuated toleration, were by them interpreted to contain the dogmas of atheiſm: and this ſame Voltaire, who had exerted all the reſources of his genius powerfully to prove the exiſtence of a God, heard himſelf, to his great aſtoniſhment, accuſed of denying that exiſtence. The devout, who thus ſo mal-adroitly ſhed their gall over him, met with approbation among people of their own claſs, but not among thoſe who had the leaſt tincture of the art of reaſoning. His true

* The metaphor is his majeſty's; the reader will judge for himſelf how far it is allowable, recollecting the poetic purity of theſe fabulous waters. T.

crime

crime conſiſted in not having cowardly diſguiſed, in his hiſtory, the vices of ſo many pontiffs who had diſhonoured the church; becauſe he had ſaid, with Paul Sarpi, Fleuri, and numerous others, that the paſſions often have greater influence, on the conduct of prieſts, than the inſpiration of the Holy Spirit; becauſe, in his works, he infuſed horror into the minds of his readers againſt the abominable maſſacres which falſe zeal had committed; and finally becauſe he treated with contempt thoſe unintelligible and frivolous quarrels, to which divines of every ſect attach ſo much importance.

To finiſh the picture, let us add that all the works of M. de Voltaire ſold as ſoon as they came from the preſs; while, at the ſame time biſhops beheld, with holy vexation, their paſtoral letters worm-eaten, or rotting in the ſhops of the bookſellers. Thus did the imbecillity of prieſts reaſon: their ſtupidity might be pardoned, did not their ill-drawn concluſions injure the peace of mankind. Truth is obliged to ſay, that logic ſo falſe is ſufficient to characterize beings ſo vile and contemptible; who, publicly profeſſing to ſubdue their reaſon, are openly divorced from common ſenſe.

Since we are here juſtifying M. de Voltaire, we ought not to conceal any of the accuſations brought

brought againſt him. Bigotry imputed to him the crime of having diſſeminated the opinions of Epicurus, Hobbs, Wollaſton, Lord Bolingbroke, and other philoſophers. But is it not evident that, far from confirming theſe opinions, by thoſe remarks which others are free to add, he ſatisfied himſelf with ſtating facts, the deciſion on which he left to his readers? Beſide, if the foundation of religion be truth, what has religion to apprehend from all that falſehood can invent? Of this M. de Voltaire was ſo well convinced that he did not ſuppoſe the doubts of a few philoſophers could be ſuperior to divine inſpiration.

But let us extend our remarks; let us compare the morality which prevails through his works to that of his perſecutors. Men ought to love each other, ſaid he, like brothers; their duty is mutually to aid each other, while ſupporting the burthen of life, in which the ſum of evil is greater than the ſum of good. Their opinions are as different as their countenances. Far from perſecuting, becauſe they do not think alike, they ought to be ſatisfied with rectifying the judgments of thoſe who are in error, by reaſoning, without ſubſtituting fire and flames to argument; and, in a word, they ought to behave toward their neighbour, as they wiſh their

neighbour ſhould behave toward them. Is this the language of M. de Voltaire, or of the holy goſpel? Let us contraſt this with the practical morality of hypocriſy, or of falſe zeal, which thus expreſſes itſelf:—We muſt exterminate thoſe who do not think as we wiſh them to think; we muſt be the terror of ſuch as endeavour to unmaſk our vices and our ambition; let God be the buckler of our iniquities; let men deſtroy each other, let blood flow. What matters this to us, provided our authority do but increaſe? Let us paint an implacable and cruel God, that the cuſtom duties of Purgatory and Paradiſe may augment our revenues. Thus does religion too often take advantage of the paſſions of men, and perverſely turn ſources the moſt pure to be the fountain of ill.

The cauſe of M. de Voltaire being ſuch as we have ſtated, he gained the ſentence of applauſe at every tribunal over which reaſon, inſtead of myſtical ſophiſtry, preſided. Whatever perſecution he might endure from theological hatred, he failed not to diſtinguiſh religion itſelf from thoſe by whom religion is diſhonoured. To the eccleſiaſtics, whoſe virtues were the true ornaments of the church, he rendered juſtice; he blamed none but ſuch as, by the perverſity of their morals, became abhorred of mankind.

Thus

Thus did M. de Voltaire paſs his life amid the perſecutions of thoſe who envied him, and the admiration of his enthuſiaſts, without being humbled by the ſarcaſms of the former, or inflated by the applauſes the latter beſtowed: he was ſatisfied with inſtructing the world; and, by his writings, with inſpiring the love of letters and of man. Not contented with giving moral precepts, he preached benevolence by example. He it was who courageouſly ſtood forth the defender of the unhappy family of Calas, who pleaded the cauſe of the Sirvens, and wreſted them from the barbarous power of their judges; nay, had he poſſeſſed the gift of miracles, he would have raiſed the chevalier La Barre from the dead. How noble a picture is a philoſopher, buried in retreat, pleading aloud the cauſe of humanity, and obliging judges to repeal the ſentences of injuſtice! Had M. de Voltaire done nothing more, he would have merited a place among that ſmall number who are juſtly eſteemed the true benefactors of men. Thus we ſee philoſophy and religion in concert point to the road of virtue. Examine who is the moſt a chriſtian—the magiſtrate who cruelly forces a family into baniſhment, or the philoſopher who welcomes and yields it ſupport; the judge who

employs the ſword of law to aſſaſſinate the thoughleſs, but not guilty, or the ſage who would ſave the life of youth, that he might correct his errors; the executioner of Calas, or the protector of that miſerable family?—Theſe, gentlemen, are facts which will render the memory of M. de Voltaire for ever dear to thoſe who have feeling hearts, and minds capable of emotion. Precious as the gifts of underſtanding, imagination, elevated genius, and extenſive knowledge are, theſe gifts, of which nature is but rarely prodigal, are not ſuperior to acts of humanity and benevolence; the firſt are admired, the ſecond bleſſed and revered.

However painful, gentlemen, it may be to me, ever to be ſeparated from M. de Voltaire, I feel the moment approach at which I am obliged to renew that affliction in you which his loſs has occaſioned. We left him peaceful at Ferney: affairs of perſonal intereſt induced him to remove to Paris, where he hoped to arrive ſoon enough to ſave ſome remains of his fortune from a bankruptcy in which he was involved. He wiſhed not again to appear in his country with an empty hand. His time, which he divided between philoſophy and the belles lettres, furniſhed him a number of works, ſome

of

of which he always had in reſerve. Having compoſed a new tragedy, the ſubject of which is Irene, he was deſirous to have it acted on the theatre of Paris. It was his cuſtom to ſubject his pieces to the moſt ſevere examination, before he expoſed them to public exhibition. In conformity to theſe principles, he conſulted all the men of taſte with whom he was acquainted at Paris: ſacrificing vain ſelf-love to the deſire of rendering his labours worthy of poſterity, liſtening to the ſound advice of criticiſm, he endeavoured with ardent and ſingular zeal to render his tragedy correct. He paſſed whole nights in new modelling his work; and whether it were to ward off ſleep, or to reinvigorate his mind, he made an immoderate uſe of coffee: fifty cups per day were ſcarcely ſufficient. This liquor threw his blood into the moſt violent agitation, and brought on heat ſo exceſſive that, to calm this kind of inflammatory fever, he had recourſe to opiates, of which he took ſtrong doſes. Far from removing the diſeaſe, theſe did but accelerate his end. Soon after having taken this medicine with ſo little precaution, a ſpecies of palſy became manifeſt; and this was followed by an apoplectic ſtroke, which terminated his life.

Though M. de Voltaire was feeble in conſtitution, and though grief, care, and exceſſive application, had contributed to weaken it, he lived to the age of eighty-four. Mind was in him continually ſuperior to matter; the ſtrength of his ſoul communicated vigour to a body almoſt tranſparent. His memory was aſtoniſhing, and he preſerved all the faculties of his mind and imagination to his laſt ſigh. With what joy, gentlemen, ſhall I bring to your recollection thoſe teſtimonies of admiration, and gratitude, which the people of Paris rendered to this great man, during his laſt reſidence in his country! Uncommon as it is, how delightful is it to ſee the public equitable; to ſee them render juſtice during life to thoſe extraordinary beings, whom nature is pleaſed only to produce at diſtant periods, that they may receive, even from their cotemporaries, the applauſes they are certain to obtain from poſterity! It might well be expected that a man who had employed the whole ſagacity of his genius to celebrate the glory of his nation, ſhould find ſome rays reverted back upon himſelf. Thus the French felt; and, by their enthuſiaſm, rendered themſelves worthy of partaking the luſtre their countryman had ſhed upon them and their age.

Yet could it be believed that this Voltaire, to whom prophane Greece would have raiſed altars, whoſe ſtatues would have adorned Rome; to whoſe memory a mighty empreſs, the protectreſs of the ſciences, determined to erect a monument at Peterſburg—would it, I ſay, be believed, that ſuch a being ſhould be in danger of wanting a little earth to cover his aſhes? What! In the eighteenth century, when knowledge is more than ever expanded, when the ſpirit of philoſophy has made a progreſs ſo great, can other Hierophantes be found more barbarous than the Heruli, and more worthy of living with the people of Taprobane than with the French nation, blinded by falſe zeal, drunken with fanaticiſm, who would not allow the laſt ſad rites of humanity to be paid to one of the moſt celebrated men the boſom of France ever bore? This, however, was a ſpectacle which all Europe beheld with mingled grief and indignation.

But, whatever might be the hatred of lunatics like theſe, or the cowardice of their revenge, which thus could glut itſelf on the dead; neither the cries of envy, nor their ſavage howlings, can tarniſh the memory of M. de Voltaire. The mildeſt ſentence they can expect is, that they and their vile artifices ſhould remain for ever buried

buried in the darkneſs of oblivion; while the fame of M. de Voltaire ſhall increaſe with increaſing ages, and tranſmit his name to immortality.

FINIS.

ERRATA.

Vol. I. Part II.	Page	110	Line 13	*For* enemy *read* army.
——	——	188	—— 10	*After* twenty *inſert* of.
——	——	241	—— 6	*For* fifteen battalions *read* on the 15th five battalions.
Vol. II.	——	79	—— 3	*For* reverſe *read* reſerve.
——	——	286	—— 25	*For* the right of the windmill *read* on a height beſide the windmill.
Vol. III.	——	28	—— 18	*For* Kemerſdorf *read* Kunnerſdorf.
——	——	125	—— 10	*After* September *add* with about twenty thouſand men.
——	——	323	—— 24	*Before the word* other *inſert* ten.
——	——	389	—— 20	*Inſtead of* Frederic II. *read* Ferdinand II.
Vol. IV.	——	16	—— 5	*For* the empreſs's mother *read* the empreſs his mother.
——	——	378	—— 23	*For* § 7 *read* § 57.
Vol. VI.	——	95	—— 4	(Poetry) *For* ways *read* rays.
——	——	145	—— 2	*After* Prince Royal *add* Remuſberg, Auguſt 16, 1737.
Vol. VII.	Letter	CXXXIII.		*For* July 9 *read* July 29.
——	——	CXLII.		*Before* Sept. 6 *inſert the word* Weſel.
——	——	CLXIV.		*Inſtead of* July 5 *read* June 25.
——	——	CLXXVII.		*Inſtead of* June 1 *read* June 18.
——	——	CLXXXIII.		*Inſtead of* April 7 *read* Auguſt 7.
——	——	CLXXXVII.		*Before* Sept. 2 *inſert* Bruſſels.